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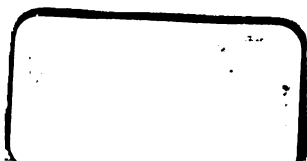
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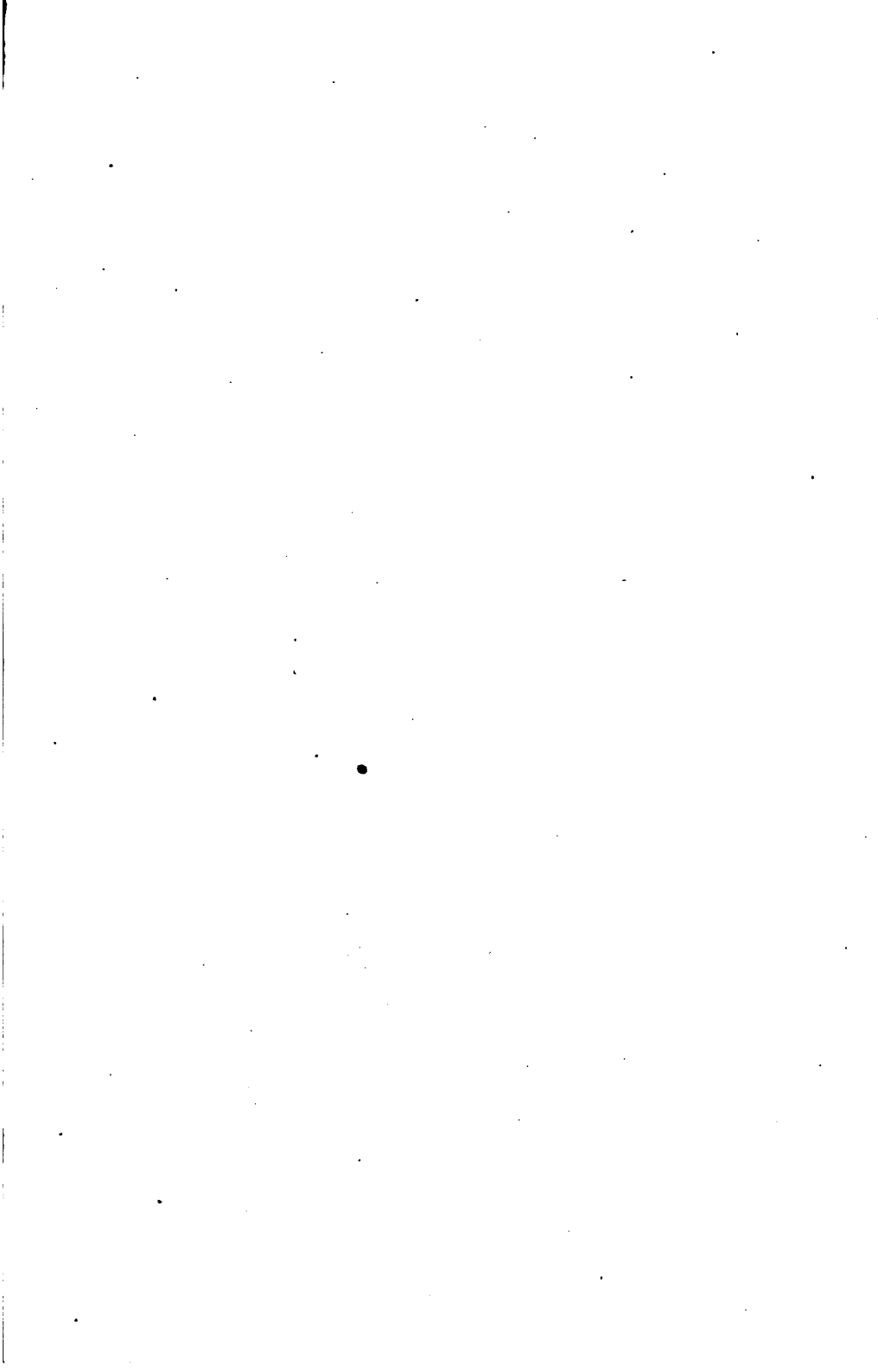
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A PRIVATE JOURNAL

KEPT DURING THE

NIGER EXPEDITION,

FROM THE COMMENCEMENT IN MAY, 1841, UNTIL THE RECALL
OF THE EXPEDITION IN JUNE, 1842.

BY



WILLIAM SIMPSON,

CIVILIAN.

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LONDON:

JOHN F. SHAW, 27, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, RUSSELL-SQ. ;  
HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW ;  
J. JOHNSTONE, EDINBURGH ; AND J. ROBERTSON, DUBLIN.

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1843.



LONDON:  
H. W. MARTIN, PRINTER, BARTLETT'S BUILDINGS, HOLBORN.

TO  
**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT,**  
K.G. ETC. ETC.

**PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE TOTAL EXTINCTION OF THE  
SLAVE TRADE, AND THE CIVILIZATION OF AFRICA.**

MAY it please your Royal Highness to accept the Dedication of a Journal, from an humble individual who formed one of the members of the late Niger Expedition, in which is detailed the occurrences, as they came under his personal observation.

I am emboldened to Dedicate this little work to your Royal Highness from a knowledge of the lively interest your Royal Highness has taken in the merciful undertaking on behalf of the sons of Africa, and from a conviction that your Royal Highness will give your high sanction to the publication of every particular (however humbly its performance may be executed), connected with an Expedition undertaken with the noble view of delivering the population of so large a portion of the world, from spiritual darkness, earthly misery, and cruelty.

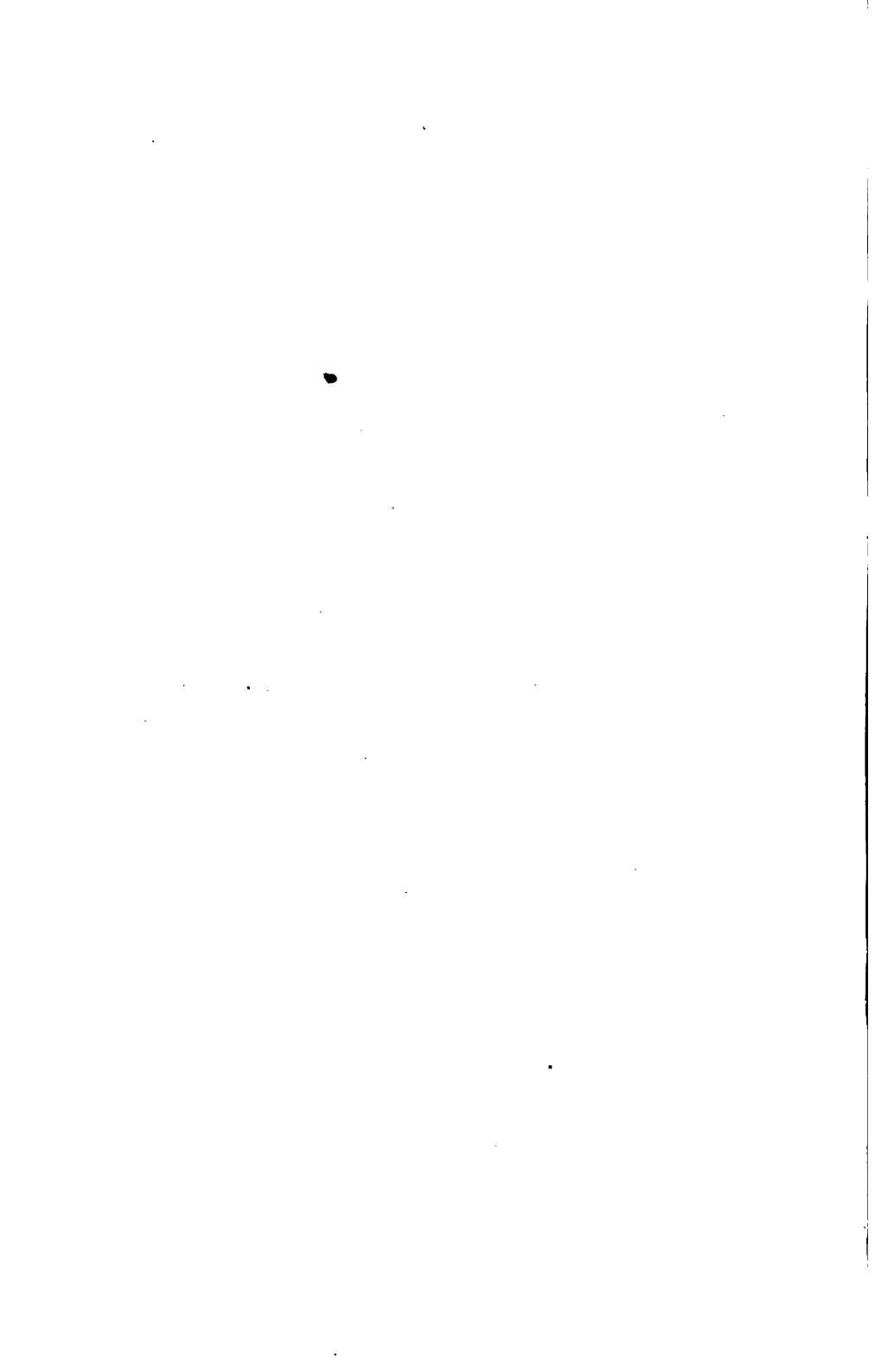
I have the honour to be,

Your Royal Highness's

Most humble and devoted Servant,

**WILLIAM SIMPSON.**





## PREFACE.

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IN the following Journal of the progress and termination of an enterprize which has elicited such an amount of Christian and benevolent sympathy throughout the civilized world, I have not attempted anything but to give, in as clear a manner as I could, the facts which came under my immediate notice, and was in the habit of daily entering in my journal, not with the view of publication, but merely for reference, and for my own satisfaction and that of my friends; but having been induced, through the kind persuasion of many, for whose opinion I entertain the highest respect, I have complied with their wish to print the journal, and send my plain narrative forth to the public.

I have not touched upon the scientific researches of the Niger expedition, as I doubt not that will be set forth in an able manner by those under whose direction it was guided; but, in passing, I would add my feeble testimony of praise to the zeal and energy with which these were conducted, under the most

trying circumstances, both of natural and physical causes, laying many prostrate, and cutting off several in the midst of these engagements.

My journal will be found to place the reader in a position to form an opinion on many points connected with this expedition, regarding which, at present, there is a great want of material, to enable the public to come to a satisfactory conclusion.

As the study of the writer in the following sheets has been only a narration of facts as they occurred under his own observation, from the commencement to the termination of the Niger expedition, without the least pretensions to literary composition, he trusts a generous Public, from the above circumstance, and the hurried manner it has necessarily been put together, since his arrival in the capital, will plead his excuse for style and any incorrectness that may appear to a discerning public.

With this apology he places the work before the world without further comment.

LONDON,  
*December, 1842.*

## INTRODUCTION.

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**THE** writer of the following pages at an early period of his life was led to the western hemisphere, where he was the principal in a mercantile house, established in Cartagena, and Santa Marta de Colombia, from the year 1823 to 1831. During this period his avocations obliged him to visit many of the West India Islands, in one of which he resided for several months,\* and was brought much in contact with the then slave population, with which he had frequent intercourse, while they were engaged at labour in the fields and in the curing-house, and also at their own homes. With the facts of slavery thus brought before his mind; with abundant evidence around him in the character both of bond and free, of its degrading effect upon the one, and its hardening and brutalising influence upon the other; with feelings not

\* See Appendix, page 129. (A)

warped or perverted by familiarity with slavery, his mind became earnestly alive to the claims of the children of Africa, and his prayers to God were that they might be emancipated from the fetters as well of the spirit as of the body. It was a vain thing in the face of a system which counteracted every good principle almost in the bud, a system which allowed of none acquiring a permanent and extensive influence, to contend, with any great hopes of success, in behalf of the negroes; but in faith and prayerfulness the writer endeavoured to convert the misfortune—the exile and slavery,—of those with whom he was brought in contact, to their profit, by collecting them on the Sabbath day, on different occasions, to hear from a missionary resident, the inestimable truths of the gospel. These labours at least proved to him one thing, that the disposition of his coloured friends was not that which is likened to *stony* ground. The capricious tyranny to which they were exposed; the exclusion of every thing, not merely animal in its character, from their habits and history, might prevent the good seed maturing in them; but the soul, the image of God, though ever so darkened and blinded, was not less to be recognized in them, than in many of his own countrymen. He felt and saw that justice only was needed to the sons and daughters of Africa to prove that God had fitted them for something better than slavery.

The busy occupations of life, new scenes and circumstances, and the energy with which the work was carried on by others, prevented the writer from engaging in behalf of the negroes himself, farther than in a very trifling and incidental manner or degree, until about the period which dates the commencement of the following journal. He was then, that is about

two years since, temporarily resident in Liverpool engaged on some mercantile business, when he was for the first time made aware of the then contemplated Niger expedition whilst attending the ministry of the Rev. Haldane Stewart. That esteemed and venerated minister of Christ intimated from the pulpit, that a meeting would be held in his church to implore the divine blessing on the expedition; the writer at once resolved to be present at the meeting. This intention he fulfilled, and after having listened to a clear exposition of the objects of the proposed Niger expedition, followed by a powerful and affecting appeal in its favour, providential circumstances concurring, and he feeling himself strongly drawn to be united with this Christian and benevolent undertaking;—regarding the expedition in its double character of a commercial as well as benevolent enterprise—it became his earnest desire to lend his humble energies and abilities to those who had originated it, should they be deemed acceptable. Before taking any direct steps, however, he instituted inquiries into the views and intentions of those who might be his companions, which resulted in the assurance that they were led to volunteer by motives of a religious and philanthropic character. Some of the writer's most valued\* friends in vain sought to dissuade him from the enterprise; his anticipations were sanguine, and having received an appointment from government, he began his preparations. He collected information regarding the articles which were likely to be found in the country, to which he was to proceed, and selected samples of such as might be of use in a commercial intercourse with the inhabitants. He obtained Bibles and differ-

\* See Appendix, page 129. (B)

ent religious publications for distribution, and at the suggestion of some Christian friends, he was provided by the two chief Rabbis in London with letters\* commendatory to their brethren, in case it should be found that in the providence of God towards that remarkable people, any portion of them were located in the interior of Africa. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April all was in readiness, and he took his departure on board H.M.S. *Wilberforce*.

\* See Appendix, page 129. (C)

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# CONTENTS.

---

| CHAPTER I.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | PAGE |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Journal from April 20th to June 25th, 1841.—Embark at Woolwich.—Anchor at Portsmouth.—The Purser.—First Sabbath at Sea.—Cross the Bay of Biscay.—Arrive at the Island of Madeira.—Friends there.—Rides about the Island.—Incidents.—Orchards.—Scenery.—Arrive at the Island of Teneriffe.—Excursion into the Country.—The Character of the People, Soil, &c.—Passage from Teneriffe to the Island of St. Vincent.—Captain Bird Allen.—Excursion into St. Vincent.—Sterile Country.—Hospitality of a Man of Colour to our Party.—Melancholy Accident to a Shipmate.—Nicholas Isle.—Weather.—Approach Sierra Leone | 1    |
| CHAPTER II.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
| Journal from 26th June to August.—Arrive at Sierra Leone.—Its appearance from the Sea.—Land there.—Arrive at Cape Mesurado.—Liberia.—Bassa Cove.—Cape Palmas.—Incidents on the Voyage.—Cape Coast Castle.—British Accra.—Approach Cape Formosa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 18   |
| CHAPTER III.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |      |
| Journal from August 15th to September.—Alburka Island.—The Benin branch of the Niger.—Oguberee.—Ivande.—The King of Ibu.—Conferences and Treaties.—Commissioners at Iddah.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 34   |
| CHAPTER IV.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
| From September to December.—Sickness.—Traffic.—Arrival at the spot chosen for the Model Farm.—Return of the Soudan and the Wilberforce.—Fernando Po.—Dr. Collman.—St. George's Bay.—Return of the Albert.—Death of Captain Bird Allen.—Continued Sickness and Deaths.—Death of Dr. Vogel                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 50   |



| CHAPTER V.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  | PAGE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|------|
| From December, 1841, to February, 1842.—Princes' Island.—<br>Madame Ferrera.—St. Thomas's Island.—Island of Rollas.—<br>Annobon Island.—Catholic Church.—Ascension Island.—<br>Governor's Residence . . . . .                                                                                      |  | 66   |
| CHAPTER VI.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |      |
| From February to March.—Burial Ground at Ascension.—<br>Tidings from England.—Dangerous Landing Place.—Abun-<br>dance of Turtle.—Mode of Capture.—Scarcity of Vegetation.<br>—Want of Spring Water.—Importing a Wife . . . . .                                                                     |  | 79   |
| CHAPTER VII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |      |
| From March to April.—The Madagascar.—Arrival at Cape<br>Coast Castle.—The Governor.—Missionary Station and<br>School.—Rev. Mr. Freeman.—Merchants' Houses.—Trade.<br>—The Soil.—British Accra.—A Danish Settlement . . . . .                                                                       |  | 85   |
| CHAPTER VIII.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |  |      |
| From April to May.—Clarence Cove.—Arrival of the Driver.—<br>Coast of Bimbia.—Amboyces' Island.—Shark's River.—North-<br>West Bay.—The Peruviana.—The Cameroon River . . . . .                                                                                                                     |  | 93   |
| CHAPTER IX.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |  |      |
| May.—King Bell's Town.—Number of Wives.—King's favour-<br>ite Wife.—Wrestling Matches.—State Visit from the King.<br>King Aqua.—The Camaroon Mountain.—Youngay.—The<br>Town of Bimbia.—The King's Residence.—Native Huts.—<br>Superstitious Practices . . . . .                                    |  | 99   |
| CHAPTER X.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |      |
| From May to June.—Clarence Cove.—Princes' Island.—The<br>Dutchman's Cap.—Captain Lilley's House.—Church Bay.—<br>Madame Ferrera's House.—Convicts.—Death of the second<br>Engineer. The Kite.—Recall of the Expedition.—Departure<br>of the Wilberforce for the Niger.—Return to England . . . . . |  | 111  |
| CHAPTER XI                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |  |      |
| From June to September.—Clarence Cove.—The Golden<br>Spring.—Superiority of steam over sails.—Calms.—Slow<br>Progress.—The Isle of Wight.—Conclusion . . . . .                                                                                                                                     |  | 120  |
| Appendix . . . . .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  | 127  |

PRIVATE JOURNAL,

KEPT DURING

THE NIGER EXPEDITION.

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CHAPTER I.

Journal from April 20th to June 25th, 1841.—Embark at Woolwich.—Anchor at Portsmouth.—The Purser.—First Sabbath at Sea.—Cross the Bay of Biscay.—Arrive at the Island of Madeira.—Friends there.—Rides about the Island.—Incidents.—Orchards.—Scenery.—Arrive at the Island of Teneriffe.—Excursion into the Country.—The Character of the People, Soil, &c.—Passage from Teneriffe to the Island of St. Vincent.—Captain Bird Allen.—Excursion into St. Vincent.—Sterile Country.—Hospitality of a Man of Colour to our Party.—Melancholy Accident to a Shipmate.—Nicholas Isle.—Weather.—Approach Sierra Leone.

20th April, 1841.—At half-past five o'clock I got on board the *Wilberforce*, off Woolwich; but finding few of my companions, I immediately left again, and proceeded to the *Albert*. Here, in company with Messrs. Fishbourne and Müller, after partaking of tea, I had some agreeable conversation, and then went forward to join the crew in evening prayers. Shortly afterwards I returned on board my own ship, where, all being confusion, I was obliged to make my bed on the cabin floor. I needed not a hard bed to keep me awake; my thoughts were painfully and anxiously engaged by the scenes which I had just passed through, and the prospects before me. My spirit found consolation and rest, light and strength, however, in Him who has sworn that He will not forsake any who put their trust in Him.

21st.—Got up this morning but little refreshed, the night having been cold, and everything meeting me in a cheerless form. Having an opportunity of communicating to my dear friends, I availed myself of it, and at 8 A.M., wrote to them, and thus relieved, in some degree, the burden of my mind. All day we expected to get under weigh. Captain Washington was engaged in inspecting the different berths, with some minor arrangements in respect to which, made at Woolwich, he did not seem quite satisfied. At 4 P.M., we had steam, but our sailing was countermanded till the following morning, which afforded me time to go on shore and provide myself with some things which I had neglected to get.

22nd.—Got under weigh at 5 A.M., the *Albert* taking the lead, which she kept, steaming better than the *Wilberforce*, which was more heavily laden: the wind was direct in our teeth, and we made little way, though the water was not rough. When off Sheerness, a heavy tide and sea made against us; and at 2 o'clock the *Albert* ran foul of us, carrying away her jib-boom; at 5, we anchored off Wisbeach for shelter.

23rd.—Got up anchor at 5 A.M., and with steam in a heavy sea, approached the Downs. At 9 we parted with our pilot, and steering N. by W. encountered disagreeable, though not stormy weather. At noon, anchored off Deal, where we remained till 4 o'clock, when we again started, and that evening passed S. Foreland.

24th.—At 6 P.M., anchored off Portsmouth Dockyard, and found ourselves alongside the *Queen*, of 120 guns, and the *Victory*, on board which Lord Nelson was killed.

25th.—Being Sabbath, all hands mustered in their best attire, and the articles of war were read on the quarter-deck; after which we joined in the service of the Church of England, and the captain read a sermon, the subject of which was drunkenness. I regretted to perceive that these devotional engagements were but coldly or listlessly regarded by many around me.

26th.—The day was taken up in receiving visitors, who flocked in numbers. I was troubled by headache, and did not recognize a friend among all who came on board.

27th.—This having been a beautiful warm day, many more have been on board to view our ship. At 4 P.M., we got steam, and sailed round the Isle of Wight, passing close to Ryde, Cowes, and the Needles. After passing the Needles, we encountered a considerable swell, which made our vessel roll very much. We tried our sailing powers with those of the *Albert*, which rather had the advantage of us.

28th.—This morning brought us in sight of the coasts of Dorset and Devon; the day was fine and the view refreshing. At 4 P.M., we anchored in company with the *Albert*, off the Dockyard at Devonport. I received a welcome expression of the interest and regard of beloved friends and kindred, in many letters. We remained several days here, a delay very irksome to most of us, but to which we became reconciled by the hope that it would call forth a greater interest and sympathy in our mission before our complete departure from the shores of England. My companions were all my juniors, and I experienced, without mitigation, the bitterness of separation from those with whom the soul had been accustomed to hold a hallowed and hallowing intercourse.

May 12th.—From day to day our suspense has been kept up as to when we should sail; thus every visit on shore has been to me as my last. I found out my old friend J. W—y, and paid him visits on three different days; Mrs. W. appeared to be a serious-minded woman. After prayers and dinner on the 9th, I went on shore with the intention, in the evening, of going to church; the weather proving wet, however, I did not carry the intention into execution; but Mr. W., after tea, read a portion of St. Matthew's Gospel, and we united in prayer. The next day J. W. came on board and dined at our mess. The conversation of my mates was not of the most congenial charac-

ter to my frame of mind. I remarked it afterwards to W., who was distressed at my situation; but it was the Lord's will—Let His will be done on earth as it is in heaven! At 6 P.M., of the 12th, we got up anchor and sailed; however, we brought up again off Mutton Cove Steps for nearly an hour, in order to receive letters by the post just then arrived; many of my companions received the last expressions of parental and domestic love: I received no letters myself. At half-past 7 P.M., in going out of the Sound, we passed through the midst of different ships of war, from on board which we received three hearty cheers, to which we responded as we came abreast of each vessel. There was something painfully grateful to hear the lusty huzzas of 3,000 British tars just arrived from foreign parts, under the circumstances in which we stood; and many a heart then beating in health and youth, must have put to itself the disquieting question, when, or ever, shall I be anticipating, like these brave fellows, the fond greeting of those to whom I have been as lost?

The breeze being from the N., and our course lying to the S.S.W., we went cheerfully along with flowing sheet and steam, and, at 9, were abreast the Eddystone Lighthouse, and the light at Falmouth in our view: at midnight we passed the Lizard and the Scillys, and by sunrise the *Albert* was alongside keeping in company.

13th.—The wind and weather continue in our favour: this day all hands were summoned, and the various duties of the ship distributed to each. Purser are not generally much liked by the service, owing to the nature of their duties; but these are arranged differently with us, and any coolness with which our purser is regarded is to be accounted for by the character of that officer, which is more serious than is generally appreciated: setting aside an unnecessary degree of reserve, there is nothing I find to complain of in him, and much to imitate. May God shower down His own spirit upon us, and may the unity of His spirit distinguish us!

14th.—To-day the wind is more on our quarter, with a smooth sea, and having the benefit of steam and sails, we make about seven knots by the hour; our latitude  $47^{\circ}$  we are about half-way across the Bay of Biscay. The *Albert* keeps faithfully by our side or within sight of us.

16th.—This I may say is our first Sabbath at sea. The engagements of the previous day gave tokens of its approach by the busy clearing and putting in order of every part of the vessel. The day is fine, and the prospect on all sides congenial to devotion. Since we left England the sea has been, for the most part, serene as a lake, and the Bay of Biscay has not yet realised any of the descriptions I have read of it. I have reason to be thankful, as my nights are comfortable, and I am not troubled by headaches as I have been accustomed to be; my sleeping space is only one foot and a half by seven. I rise an hour earlier than most of my companions, and my thoughts are much kept to myself, for I find none with whom I can freely exchange them. At half-past 10 o'clock all hands were mustered on the poop, and inspected with great minuteness, during which the captain and first lieutenant, along with the surgeon, examined every corner and crevice of the vessel. At 11, the bell tolled for divine service—a solitary sound upon the vast abyss, unlike the bell echoing to bell in heavenly harmony, in the hills and dales of my native mountain land—and our little congregation was soon gathered. The service was conducted by the captain, assisted by Lieutenant Strange, in a truly devotional manner, and was seemingly followed in the same spirit. The text was in Zechariah, 8th and 13th, “And it shall come to pass, as you were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so will I save you and ye shall be a blessing,” which the preacher applied to the sailor, hitherto a curse and a pollution to the lands he visited, but now, he hoped, to prove a blessing to them, the harbinger of good and gracious things. He sought to animate his hearers with the desire and resolu-

tion to become, in the benighted land whither their course was bent, as a light set upon a hill. May the Lord follow the words of the preacher with His rich and effectual blessing. The weather has become warm, and we proceed at the rate of about six knots, when assisted by steam.

19th.—Wednesday. For the last three days we have continued to proceed prosperously, occasionally, only, taking the benefit of steam, as our fuel is now reduced to what will suffice for about three days' consumption. This day we are in lat. 36° 30', and are in hopes of seeing the island of Madeira on Friday evening. The *Albert* and we keep together, and frequently exchange signals, which relieves our monotony.

21st.—At 7 A.M., we were at anchor in Funchal roads, Madeira, from which, on all sides, the prospect is of the most enchanting character. At 10 o'clock, in company with some ladies and gentlemen who had come off to view the ships, I went on shore, and was guided by a youth to the house of my old friend Dr. Ross. Here I received a most affectionate welcome, and was invited to take up my residence while the expedition remained at Madeira. I met, at Dr. Ross's, a reverend gentleman of the name of Freeman (of the English church), a sweet, subdued, christian, who entered into conversation in a very devoted manner, and on his leaving he pronounced his blessing upon the expedition and upon myself, as an humble individual connected with it. Shortly after, two ladies called, when I temporarily retired. On my return I was pleased to find in them the Misses McIntosh of Reigmore, kind friends of my sister; they were to leave for England in a few days, when they undertook to be the bearers of letters for me, and to see my friends and acquaint them with all they saw or heard that was of interest to them or to me. In the course of the same day I was introduced to two inmates of the Dr.'s house, Mr. Wilmot, a son of Sir A. Wilmot, and a Rev. Mr. Burns, of the Scotch church, both amiable and pious men, apparently. After dinner, at 4 o'clock,

the Dr. took me a delightful ride to the vineyard of Dr. Olvieda, a Portuguese, a man of enlarged mind and feelings, and of good property. The estate which we visited had been in his family for a long period, and was quite a model: the vineyard, he informed us, produced annually about 35 pipes of wine. The fruit season had not arrived, so that I was deprived of a treat; but the fragrance of the foliage was delightful, and the conduits of water passing along the bottom of the terraces, gave a refreshing coolness to the scene. Of the strawberry, which is earlier ripe than the other fruits, I partook freely. From Dr. Olvieda's we proceeded in our ride to the race-course, from which we had a commanding view of the port and bay, with its numerous shipping, and the town, at our feet, studded here and there with nature's luxuriance, gathered from the temperate and torrid zones. I felt quite elated by the scene, and for a moment yielded to the delightful dream that this was the place in which happiness could be realised; too easily forgetting that God hath not centred happiness in place or rank, but in a mind conformed and resigned to His will, which is often most merciful when it least appears so. On our return, we came by the western extremity of the town, which enabled my kind friend and guide to introduce me to Mr. Hallily and family, of whom I had heard before. We found several ladies in company with Mr. and Mrs. H., one of whom advanced to me, and I was pleased, at this distance from home, to find myself recognized after an evening spent in her company in Edinburgh. We remained only a short time at Mr. H.'s, as the evening was drawing to a close, but parted with a promise, if possible, to see them again. I joined in family devotions with the Dr.'s circle at night, and retired to a bed once more on land, both oppressed and relieved by crowding thoughts.

22nd.—Got up this morning at 6, quite refreshed and invigorated, all nature around me singing or speaking the Great Creator's praise. I took a short walk from the Dr.'s house.



In front there was quite a precipice, and the walk so slippery as to require the horses bearing burdens to be rough shod. On my descending I was startled by a noise of voices, and on turning to my left, I discovered in a square, a squad of rather awkward recruits, who, at every motion of the rifle, bellowed out; their drill serjeants appeared to use them after a rough fashion. I was invited to dine with a party at some little distance, to which I proceeded, in company with some others, on horseback. The road was precipitous, and our passage was assisted by horse-conductors, who presented a ludicrous picture, sometimes holding on, as is the practice of the place, at our chargers' tails! The host received us kindly, and, desirous of pleasing me, a stranger, immediately after we had taken some rest, guided us over his grounds, which were most tastefully and expensively laid out. I observed numerous varieties of the oak which he had raised from the acorn, and which had stood for about twenty years; they were particularly healthy and promising in their appearance, the skin of the bark clear, and perfectly free from any moss or cork. At dinner the party was joined by Captains Trotter and William Allen; the Ashantee princes, who had been expected, by not coming, gave some disappointment to the ladies. Our way homewards, on horseback and in palanquins, was enlivened by different views which were pointed out by the ladies. We were much struck by that of the *Small Coral*. On arriving at my kind entertainer's house, a new scene was presented. Death with hasty strides was asserting his right, and, before breakfast the following morning, another was added to the many victims of consumption for whom a grave has been dug at Madeira. This was a Mr. Johnstone, the only son of his parents; he was cut off in his 29th year.

23rd.—I went on board ship and heard a sermon read by the captain, from an appropriate text, in the course of which he incited us to carry the evidence of our Christian

profession in our lives, and that thus among the benighted Africans it might be shown that ours was the living and true God. Dr. Ross came on board, and after inspecting the vessel, its ventilating apparatus, my quarters, &c., I returned with him on shore. In the evening I attended the episcopal church, and heard the Rev. Mr. Low preach from the text, "Straight is the way, and narrow is the road that leads to life eternal;" he delivered the prayers in an impressive and devotional manner. The churchyard, which is situated a little way from the church, was beautifully fenced by the geranium which spread its fragrance around, and stately poplars were to be seen here and there, and the weeping willow appropriately shaded many a grave in which the young and beautiful had found a premature rest. I had not time to read the affecting inscriptions on some of the tombs,—tombs mostly covering those whose last moments had wanted the solace and support of the presence of the friends to whom they were tied by the earliest and fondest attachments.

*24th.*—Our breakfast was taken quietly and sadly at the Doctor's, as on this morning we were to consign to the grave the remains of Mr. Johnstone, which was done with the beautiful ceremonial of the Episcopal Church. In bearing a part in this last service of humanity to humanity—the last which can be received or rendered—my mind was powerfully recalled to my own situation and prospects, as one of a perilous expedition, and I prayed that if I had presumptuously mistaken the leadings of God's providence, he would pardon me, and if it were His gracious will, that I might again be restored in time to those near and dear to me. On returning on board ship I found my messmates rather jovially engaged in celebrating the Queen's birth-day: their merriment cost me more pain, though I did not participate in it, than it did them; for on the following morning I had a severe headache, the consequence of being kept awake.

*25th.*—I joined a prayer-meeting on shore, at Dr. Kelly's,

when the Rev. Mr. Burns, as well as Dr. Kelly, earnestly implored the Divine guidance to, and blessing on, our enterprise. At half-past 7, the preparations on board for sailing being nearly complete, I abruptly left the meeting and hurried to my post, from which I wrote an apology to my friends, from whom I had not had time otherwise to take leave. We got under weigh at 9 P.M.

28th.—We anchored off the island of Teneriffe, at Santa Cruz, last evening at sun-down, after a beautiful run. We are here in 28° N. lat., and the breeze delightfully refreshing; the scenery from the sea majestic and imposing; little cultivation appears in sight, but everything has a rugged volcanic aspect. Yesterday at 3 P.M., we saw the peak to great advantage, as it was perfectly free from clouds at the summit, the base being enveloped as it were in a white shroud: we could descry towards the pinnacle streaks of snow. This mountain is said to be about 11,000 feet above the level of the sea, from which it is discernible at 80 miles distance. I went on shore at Santa Cruz, where I found the Spanish I had acquired in former years of much service to me. Not finding a gentleman to whom I had an introduction, I occupied myself in seeing the place; and crossed the Piazza, which is a large square, in the centre of which I found a fine group of statues of white marble, surrounding a pillar, the subjects of which I did not learn; a large public building occupied the right side, opposite to which were stores and restaurateurs. I went into several of the shops in quest of straw hats, and thus had much conversation with the inhabitants, who were pleased with my knowledge of their tongue. Camels, donkeys, oxen and horses are their beasts of burden. We ascended a steep well-made road which leads to Octavio, a place about five leagues distant, in the course of which we exchanged words occasionally with peasants passing us, and found them frank and affable. The soil on each side was exceedingly barren; great pains had been taken in terracing and conducting the water

over it, as otherwise it would be exposed to an impetuous torrent in the wet season. We encountered a few solitary fig trees with green fruit upon them ; also stubble indicating the growth of wheat or barley which had been recently cut. Farther on we found several fruit trees, orange, apricot, papa, and citron. The prickly-pear (or cactus) is here cultivated in patches, and fields for the cochineal insect ; of this article several hundredweights were seen ready packed and prepared for the market. The products of this island, as we were informed, are very fluctuating, depending upon the rains. Some seasons they have three crops of wheat ; in four months from the time the seed is cast into the ground it is ready for bread ! The inhabitants appeared to us simple-minded and industrious, the women no less than the men : *their* occupations seemed to consist chiefly in spinning, with the hand, coarse flax and cotton for their own wear : the raw material is imported. After a ramble amongst the rocks we descended to the lower ground, where we saw a small garden laid out with many European and tropical plants and vegetables. The good people made us partake of the fruits, and obligingly gave us all their information respecting the names, growth, &c., of such plants as we wished to know anything of. By this time our appetites were sufficiently stimulated by the exertions we had made, and, entering a restaurateur's, we partook of coffee and bread and butter, which cost us 1s. 3d. each. At 5 o'clock we regained the vessel, and sailed with the advantage of both steam and wind.

30th.—Dined with Captain W. Allen, in company with Mr. Cook and Lieutenant Strange ; intercourse most friendly and agreeable, which I trust may bind us more to each other, embarked as we are in one glorious enterprise.

31st.—The weather continues delightful, and since we left Teneriffe the wind has been quite aft. Sailing by wind only, however, we made no more than four knots per hour. This day our lat. was 23° 35' N., and long. 21° 10' W. ; the heat

does not appear to increase as we proceed south, having the benefit of a refreshing breeze, and our ventilation being at work during the night, makes it very pleasant. So far as we have gone, Heaven seems to shine upon our enterprize. On this day I first drew breath; and in the retrospect, how much cause have I for thankfulness! Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life: Almighty Father, may Thy arms be around me in those which are before!

*June 2nd.*—We are in lat.  $19^{\circ} 55'$  N., with the heat moderate. Yesterday we crossed the tropic of Capricorn, and are now in a new zone. Much was said to frighten those who had not crossed the line before; but I was entitled to exemption, having passed it six times. All went off quietly, notwithstanding the hints thrown out to alarm the timid. Neptune did not make his appearance on board!

*3rd.*—Last night it blew pretty fresh from the N.E., and we made considerable progress. At 1 P.M. we were close in sight of the Cape de Verd islands, and many barren peaks were on our right, along which we coasted for a considerable time. The island of St. Vincent appeared on our left bow, a-head, when we altered our course to N.W. by W., to make for the harbour, which was fully twelve miles distant. The *Albert* had preceded us three hours, beside which we found the other vessels of the expedition waiting our arrival, the *Harriet* transport and the *Soudan*. The *Harriet* and the *Soudan* had been here eight or ten days before our appearance, having encountered some boisterous weather; but no casualty excepting the loss of a man, who fell overboard in a perfect calm, and was unable to swim.

*4th.*—This island appears quite a barren waste, producing almost no vegetation. The neighbouring island, St. Antonio, is more productive, but less healthy. The governor of St. Vincent had only half an acre of cultivated land, from which he obtained a few banannas. However, fish and turtle are plentiful on the coasts.

The Portuguese own St. Vincent. Besides the vessels belonging to the Niger expedition, we met here only a small sloop, which we were informed was the packet for Lisbon, and then about to sail. Its visits were made once in two or three months. Captain Bird Allen came on board, and I remained half an hour in his company, delighted by his affability, his cheerful and Christian spirit: his manners are of a character to conciliate the regards and interest of every one. We are about to receive into our mess Assistant-surgeon Thomson, who had his passage to this in the *Harriet* transport; he appears to be a man of the world, of good address, prompt, and active.

6th.—Our mineralogist has been most indefatigable in his researches, having already explored great part of the island, which extends east to west about ten, and north to south about seven miles, and is formed, as most of the islands about here seem to be, of volcanic matter. There have been no rains for three years, but the soil is refreshed by heavy dews. Captain W. Allen, as usual, read prayers to day, and a sermon, in the morning; and in the afternoon, the Rev. Mr. Müller, chaplain of the *Albert*, gave us a plain, simple address, from the words, "that Christ would be a covert, a shade, a nourishment, to all His people; but for this thing God must be inquired of by the house of Israel; so all is in store for him that asks." He most profitably applied his text to our anticipated dangers, and his earnestness of manner commanded general attention. The service was opened by the singing of a hymn, in which the reverend gentleman took the lead.

9th.—Yesterday all cabin hands were roused by half-past 5 in the morning, to go on shore in their various avocations. I accompanied Mr. Stirling and the gardener on an exploring expedition, in which our path was for some time over barren sand and stone, every step almost that we took sinking us below our ankles; our ascent of a steep hill costing us the same trouble and delay, for we often slid two steps

backward for one made in advance. On arriving at the summit of this hill, the prospect had no relief, in the shape of verdure, to its sterile character; the sea alone relieved the eye in surveying it, and here and there we observed some goats and donkeys, which fed upon withered shrubs. In a dreary plain we sat down, and with prepared appetite eat some bread and cheese, and drank a little wine, my companions adding to these good things the indulgence of smoking, in which, however, I could not with benefit to myself join them. A lad mounted upon a donkey encountered us here, and guided us to fresh water, and to a lonely hut which was close at hand. As we advanced, the good people who inhabited it came out and welcomed us in. The hut consisted of two apartments, one for rest, and the other for domestic purposes. Besides the parents, there were five children. We were pleased to be welcomed with an English "How do you do?" and a hand held out to receive our's, by the head of the family, a man of colour, who entertained us with primitive hospitality, by procuring water for our refreshment, milking his goats for our benefit, and welcoming us to anything in his little store of poultry, fish, and vegetables,—these last from St. Antonio. I desired to have a little fish cooked with some ayuca, which was immediately prepared and laid before us. We had only a small sum wherewith to repay this kindness; and upon my showing them an English shilling, to see if they knew its value, mistaking my intention to be that of presenting it, they at once declined it, saying, "All was a present, they sold nothing." They then offered us a fowl, which we declining to receive, they insisted upon its acceptance. To obviate being obliged to yield to their kindness, we said it would be an inconvenience to carry it, and they then tendered their son's services to bear it. We persisted in refusing what they could ill afford to give us; and, for all their kindness, made them, with some difficulty, accept of a shilling. I found the English knowledge of these people con-

fined to the words of salutation which they expressed on meeting us, and I made myself understood in Spanish. Conversing to them on religion, I found them in great darkness, having scarcely any idea upon it. On parting, the whole family came to the outside of the house, and as long as we were in sight, continued shouting in words of kindness and remembrance to us.

Our way homeward was over a dreadfully scorched and sandy plain, then hill after hill, so that when we arrived we were much exhausted. The *Wilberforce* had been, during our absence, on an experimental trip to San Antonio, in which most of the officers of the squadron were on board, proving the ventilating apparatus.

11th.—Yesterday afternoon an afflicting accident took place, owing to a stage erected at our bows giving way, by which two men, carpenters, were precipitated into the sea, one of whom, of the name of Morley, was drowned; the other, by name Walsh, owed his escape to his swimming powers. All hands at the moment seemed quite paralyzed; no boat was at hand, and the poor man was too exhausted to avail himself of the ropes which were flung over for him to take hold of. Boats were afterwards let down, and a search made for the body; but life had been long extinct before it was recovered. The deceased was a respectable man, and acted as clerk at our church meetings. The occurrence appears to exert a salutary effect upon those around.

12th.—Yesterday, at 5 P.M., the last melancholy offices were performed over our departed shipmate. The body was borne from the ship in the paddle-box boat, under charge of the marines and sappers and miners in half-dress, with their muskets; then followed the boats of the fleet, headed by the Chaplain and many of the officers. When all were landed, the reverend gentleman, in his canonicals, headed the procession, reading the beautiful and impressive burial service, "I am the resurrection and the life." The wind blowing very strong



at the time, however, prevented our hearing the words distinctly ; most of the inhabitants joined in the procession, and all seemed deeply impressed. When the remains were covered, the marines and sappers and miners fired three rounds over the grave, and we all returned on board our respective ships solemnized in spirit.

13<sup>th</sup>.—Being Sabbath, as usual, all hands were mustered on deck, after which the service of the Church was gone through, and a very good discourse read by the Captain, the subject being, “ Having Christ dwelling in us.” Mr. Webb and myself were invited to dine with the Captain, prior to our doing which, service was again performed—by the Rev. Mr. Müller : his text was the parable of the sower, on which he preached an impressive sermon. I spent a very agreeable afternoon with the Captain, and Mr. Cook ; our conversation was general, but turned much upon tropical plants and culture. Mr. Webb appeared to be a great favourite with the Captain ; he is a youth of good talent, and much life and energy.

17<sup>th</sup>.—We left St. Vincent’s yesterday, and are now at St. Nicholas Isle, Tarraful Bay, a distance of twenty-four miles from the former island. All our companions sailed at the same time, the *Soudan* and *Harriet* for Cape Coast direct, the *Albert* and ourselves for Sierra Leone.

19<sup>th</sup>.—When we got on deck yesterday morning, we were surprised to find a Spanish schooner anchored a short distance from us ; she is from Sierra Leone, which she left thirteen days ago, and has eighty passengers on board. Her appearance is very suspicious. Where we are anchored, we have in view a green patch of vegetation, consisting of a few plantain trees, cocoa-nut, cane, limes. After much trouble, our people have got on board about eight tun of excellent water, for which we have paid the proprietor, from whose grounds it was taken, most amply in biscuit. While at anchor, close under a high cliff here, protected from any breeze, the thermometer stood

at 78°, five or six higher than at St. Vincent. When a few miles off from the land, there was a very heavy swell, which kept the vessel rolling more than was agreeable to us landsmen. We fast approach the scene of our expected labours.

21<sup>st</sup>.—The weather has become very damp, close, and warm, particularly at night. Yesterday being Sabbath, we had service as usual, but several of my ship-mates were on the sick-list, and consequently absent. Orders have been given that all the men should be clothed in blanket-dresses, which are much recommended by the medical faculty, and also the substitution of lime-juice for grog. We have been strictly enjoined at the same time, to regulate our conduct rightly when on the coast. I still have no sympathy in common with those who are my immediate companions; but this, for my own sake, I ought not perhaps to regret, as it leads me to rest, more than I otherwise might do, upon the alone unfailing stay of comfort and consolation.

25<sup>th</sup>.—Tomorrow we expect to make Sierra Leone. May God cast His protecting arms around us, so that the pestilence may not come nigh, and that threatened dangers may be the occasion of renewed blessings.

## CHAPTER II.

Journal from 26th June to August.—Arrive at Sierra Leone.—Its appearance from the Sea.—Land there.—Arrive at Cape Mesurado.—Liberia.—Bassa Cove. Cape Palmas.—Incidents on the Voyage.—Cape Coast Castle.—British Accra.—Approach Cape Formosa.

*26th June.*—This day, at noon, Sierra Leone appeared in sight. Approaching the shore, to our left, was a long extended plain, thickly studded with palm and cocoa-nut trees; on our right, and a-head, the country was lofty and mountainous. My feelings were mingled and overpowering, as I saw the first of the land on which our labours were to be carried on; but hope and faith triumphed over fear and doubting. At 2 o'clock we neared the shore, and were in sight of the villages of Monroe and Aberdeen, each of which is said to contain about five or six hundred liberated negroes; the huts are of a circular form, with a small patch of ground around each, sufficient in extent for the growth of provisions. The streets have a regular appearance, running from the beach to the top of the hill on which they are built. The wet season having commenced gave all the appearance of spring in England. At 5 o'clock we were at anchor, close alongside of the *Albert*, which had arrived two or three days before us. We were almost immediately boarded by a great many of the coloured inhabitants, among whom were more women than men; the women coming to obtain our linen to wash for us. They exhibited books containing testimonials to their qualifications from previous employers; I engaged Judith Samuel! The simple manners of the good people pleased me much, as well as their strict regard to the sanctity of the sabbath; the

day following our arrival was the sabbath, and, by some of my shipmates, the speedy preparation of their linen was required; but all the women set their faces against beginning before Monday: buying and selling are quite suspended here on the Lord's day. So much for the labours of the missionaries, chiefly Wesleyan, as I learned.

The scenery from the spot at which we anchored gave us a very favourable idea of the country around. The government stores were prominent among the immediate objects in sight. On landing, a fine fountain presented itself, from which the water issued forth in refreshing streams by eight or ten different passages. Proceeding up the town, we arrived at the market-place, a large open space in the centre, around which were stores and shades for fish, butcher's-meat, poultry, &c.: we were saluted as we passed with, "Well, Massa, what will you have to-day?" by many coloured dealers. Fronting the market-place, on one side, stands St. George's church, a large stone building, fitted up with galleries, &c., for the accommodation of a considerable congregation. The streets are generally steep, running at right angles, and supplied with iron lamp-posts; they are covered with a soft grass (which had been recently introduced) which has the property of destroying every noxious weed growing in its neighbourhood.

28<sup>th</sup>.—Yesterday morning (sabbath) a few women came off with milk and eggs, the only exception to the generally strict observance of the Lord's day which I have seen. As usual, we had prayers on board. In the course of the day I landed to see the place, and was singularly led to the house of a Mr. Mcfoy, a respectable elderly man of colour, chief in a department of the police, with whom I had much refreshing conversation; he was connected with the Wesleyan body, as I found most of the population to be. Mr. Mcfoy was originally from Jamaica, and had been in England. After partaking of some wine with him, I was guided by a servant to the residence of the Wesleyan missionary, the Rev. Mr. Dove.

This gentleman had been labouring here for upwards of three years, and I found in company with him some other missionaries. Mr. Dove has two thousand souls under his spiritual care. I was much gratified by his confirmation of my first impression respecting the simple minded people who came on board the *Wilberforce*, on our anchoring. In Sierra Leone there are about 4,000 coloured, and 60 or 70 white persons. Beside the established church, in which the Rev. Mr. Morgan ministered, there were here, a chapel of ease, of which Mr. Jones, a man of colour, was pastor, and the chapel of the Wesleyan denomination. I remained to tea with Mr. Dove and his circle, when we had much interesting conversation. New occasions have been given me for thankfulness to God, who has refreshed me in my journeyings by sweet communion with His people.

29th.—Went on shore yesterday, and joined in worship at St. George's church, where service was held in connection with the objects of our expedition. It was really *crowded* with coloured people, who entered into the service apparently with all their heart and soul. The sermon was an eulogium on England, what she had done, and was about to do, for the African race; the preacher implored, in an especial manner, the Divine blessing on our expedition: in the afternoon there was another service for the same purpose. The Methodists also assembled and pleaded with the Lord on our behalf. May the Divine blessing descend as the dew on Mount Hermon, strengthening and fitting us for our work, and making it to prosper!

In conversation with Mr. Hook, a very old resident here, whom I had known in London, I found that he attributed the unproductive state of the colony to the want of capital and energy; the soil he thought capable of giving a rich return under proper management.\*

\* See Appendix, A.

Two prize ships came in to-day ; they had no cargo ; their capture had not been made without bloodshed. O that this horrid traffic were at an end !

*July 2nd.*—All day yesterday I expected an opportunity of getting on shore, but one did not occur till past 4 o'clock, too late for my object. I had time, however, to dispose of some bibles ashore, in such a way as to secure their advantageous distribution. On my way back to the ship I met Mr. Hook on horseback ; his horse did not, nor did any that I saw at Sierra Leone, appear very quick in its movements ; they were generally *entire*, of small stature, and exhibited more bone than flesh.

The little of Sierra Leone that I have seen has interested me much. Its luxuriance is great, producing pine-apples, limes, oranges, bananas, and peppers, which are all sold cheap ; the poultry is small ; eggs are little larger than pigeons', one penny each.

A singular sight was witnessed to-day, the air being darkened by immense flocks of locusts ; which approached us at sea ; their size is large, and they occasion great destruction amongst the plantations of rice, and to herbage generally. Rice at this season is generally scarce at Sierra Leone, so much so that we could procure none for our mess. The cattle were plenty, but small, similar to the Guernsey breed, and of brown colour, yielding a good supply of milk.

At noon we started from our anchorage, taking the *Soudan* in tow ; the *Albert* follows tomorrow, and will soon overtake us. Blessed be God that we have all left this ungenial shore without a casualty occurring : with a smooth sea, and a little wind, we glide along gently.

*5th.*—Arrived at Cape Mesurado at 11 o'clock, this being the commencement of what is called the coast of Liberia, the capital of which is Monrovia. Our progress to this has been tedious, not exceeding three knots and a half per hour. There has been a good deal of rain and wind, with very close wea-

ther. An American black has just been flogged on board, for insubordination: he received forty stripes; everything passed off so quietly that I was not aware of the occurrence till it was over. Since we received our Kroomen at Sierra Leone, the white men have appeared as if they expected that little duty would be required of them. At church service yesterday, several of the liberated blacks shipped at Sierra Leone were present; some of them could read, and followed the service throughout.

6th.—There has been a great deal of rain during the night; the sea is heavy, and our vessel rolls much. The surf is so great that it is difficult to land. There is here a fine river, in which are several small islands inhabited by Kroomen. The town itself (Monrovia) is larger than Sierra Leone, and the houses are better. Many of the inhabitants are white Americans; Mr. Buchanan, an American, is governor. The country is tolerably healthy as well as productive; some fish and pine-apples were brought alongside in boats. This evening we got up anchor, and were taken in tow by the *Albert*, which was better supplied with coals than we were: we make little way.

7th.—We still make little way: our decks are now much crowded, as we victual not less than one hundred and two men and officers. This, with the continued rain, renders our situation very uncomfortable, either on or below deck. Evening: the air is somewhat cooler than it has been in the course of the day; the thermometer is at 80°.

9th.—Bassa Cove. Had a little rain this morning: yesterday our progress was not more than twenty-five miles. We were close in shore, and some canoes came off: the people were similar to the Kroomen we have on board. There was a thought of anchoring there, to endeavour to procure some fuel; however the idea was abandoned, and at 8 P.M., loosing hold of the *Albert*, we got up steam, and sailed during the night, making about three and a half knots. At noon this day,

we anchored here, which is near to Bassa river: we found four vessels under English colours, anchored at one or two miles distance; but they with one consent (seemingly) have got under weigh. Our thermometer, at noon, stood at 82°. Several of our people have been on shore, and give a favourable report of the country, as to its fertility; they have returned completely drenched with rain; the natives are about to cut down fuel for us. Their huts are reported to be neatly wattled with the bark of the palm, and the floor elevated three or four feet from the ground; they wear no clothing except a hat, or something in place of a hat, and a cloth round the waist; they are most expert in the management of their canoes, two generally managing one, using paddles. They brave the most threatening waves, secure, apparently, from all fear of danger.

10th.—A very wet day, and much rain during the night. The wood is now being brought in large quantities in the native canoes; the purser is on shore, receiving and settling for it, in clothes and other articles. To all appearance we shall be detained here some time, as the wood is very green.

14th.—The wood comes off slowly, and in order to lay in enough to carry us to Cape Palmas, we must remain here some days longer. The captain of the *Gil Blas*, a schooner, loaded with palm oil and camwood, lying here, and about to sail for England, came on board with a native female, and dined with our captain. At Bassa Cove there are several chiefs, one of whom, by name Black Will, an elderly man, has been on board; he allows that he has forty wives, who are all his slaves.

The natives give no better signs of religion than worshipping an evil spirit; they are great thieves, and are destitute of all foresight. Just now they say that their wants are supplied by the articles which they have received from us for their wood, and they are consequently disinclined to work any more, though they know that they will be amply paid if they



do. Black Will has been in Europe; he has a very neat hut in which are apartments for his wives, his goods, &c.

The natives here are, at present, at war with an adjoining tribe, and they exhibit signs of being prepared for any attack, by having two or three sentinels on the watch, who are armed with a musket and cutlass, and supplied with powder and shot-bags. Their burial-ground presented a striking picture, having a large palm-tree in its midst, the graves surrounding it with their heads toward it, and on each grave was collected the property of the departed. A canoe, a bottle and cup of iron, implements of use, were thus to be seen piled together. These people thus reverse a scripture frequently quoted; they carry with them their wealth, even to the grave! One might interpret this custom as the suggestion of a serious moralist, teaching to man how passing must be his enjoyment of the objects on which he sets his hopes and affections, wastes his time and his energies; or perhaps that of a cynic, who, in ridicule of his absorbing tastes in life, gives their objects to him in death, saying, enjoy, when he can no longer enjoy them.

During the last two months there have been much fever and ague among the natives here, but not many deaths. Their food is very filthy, dogs and cats, even in a putrid state, being delicacies. There are generally six months of wet weather in the year, which commence about May; in the course of the wet season there are, however, occasionally so many as ten days fair.

The weather continues wet, and everything in our berths soon becomes quite mouldy. Some of my messmates have been complaining of colds, headaches, and general lassitude; but I thank God my own health remains good.

15th.—Having got our wood and water on board, we left Bassa Cove yesterday, at 2 o'clock, with steam. This day proves very wet, and we feel anxious to be away from the coast; at noon we were off Sanguin river, and had a suspi-

cious looking vessel in sight, which stimulated conjecture a little. The American black who was flogged, escaped before we left Bassa Cove, and George Morley, brother of the deceased carpenter, has been sent home in the *Gil Blas*, his health having suffered since his brother's death.

17th.—Cape Palmas. We anchored off this place yesterday at 10 A.M. Its aspect from the sea is very striking. On the right many neat wooden houses, of one story in height, appear towards the Cape Point, with the American banners flying; a little farther from the coast a native village may be seen, which, from the peculiar shape of the huts, resembles at a distance a farm yard in England with its stacks of hay.

The surf along the coast and over the bar is very great, and, at some periods, dangerous; at 2 o'clock I landed on the rocks, and, in company with the assistant-surgeon, who carried his rifle for the purpose of having sport, I saw a little of the country. We called upon the medical gentleman of the place, an American, and were kindly received. This station is called by the Americans, Harper Town, and may consist of from fifteen to twenty houses, the inhabitants of which are mostly coloured. We proceeded into the interior, visiting another native village, which, to a European, presented a novel spectacle. The people wore little or nothing more than a waist cloth—the women as well as the men. The former were, at first, very shy, but seeing the men approach us and frankly hold out their hands, they laid aside their timidity. We observed no want of industry; the women were busily engaged in domestic occupations, in pounding corn, and carrying wood and water. Passing from this village into the bush, we saw several mangroves, and found ourselves in a rather marshy country, such as breeds the malaria, and at length reached another native village, consisting of about fifty huts enclosed with bamboo fence; and, farther on, many detached wood and stone houses, well constructed and commodious, inhabited by the Americans.

I learned that there were three or four American missionaries, who, besides ministering on the sabbath to the spiritual wants of their congregations, conduct several schools for the instruction of the children of Harper Town.

A native who appeared to hold some rank among the people of colour here, came on board to-day. Adorned with a pair of rusty epaulettes on an old scarlet coat, with a shabby black hat on his head, on which was an old gilt band, no shoes or stockings on his feet, a chain round his neck, and on his ancles tingling bells, of which he seemed particularly careful, wiping the wet from them before going on the quarter-deck—he presented that description of ludicrous figure which one is prepared occasionally to meet among people of colour, who are notoriously fond of showy attire. He had two attendants, but they were not rigged out in the style of their master, having only the usual waistband, and the distinction of a brass chain round the neck.

18th.—Were engaged all day yesterday in getting off wood by our own boats, and this morning completed our preparations for sailing again.

From what I have seen and heard of Liberia, I believe that it is likely to become, both in a mercantile and benevolent point of view, a settlement of great value. Sugar, cotton, coffee, cocoa, rice, and palm oil, and most of the fruits and vegetables peculiar to the tropics, are produced at it; yams do not thrive, but, as substitutes, the sweet potatoe and casada are cultivated with great success. The missionaries are intelligent men, and active in the work they have to do.\*

We obtained the services of some additional Kroomen here, who accompany us to the Niger.

19th.—During the last night we made considerable progress, and the wind continues in our favour; the day is hazy, close and oppressive.

\* See notice of Liberia at the end of the volume.

20th.—Our fuel gets nearly exhausted ; last night we tried to proceed without steam, but could not keep our course, the wind being against us, and a strong current carrying us toward the shore, so that at daybreak we found ourselves within half a mile of it, and immediately anchored, waiting till steam was got up ; the shore appeared rich in vegetation, but only two huts were in sight. I have again reason to thank God for the protection which He has extended since we left our native land. Had our situation not been timely discovered, we would have been cast upon shores which we learned were inhabited by warring tribes !

21st.—Yesterday till sun-down we continued steaming at a slow rate, making very little progress, and our fuel being nearly exhausted, we anchored during the night and until 1 P.M., this day, when we again availed ourselves of steam, attempting to get away from the land.

23rd.—Having now both wind and current in our favour, we get on, but not rapidly. Last night, whilst we were fifteen miles from Cape Coast Castle, and off the Dutch fort Elmina, having neared the shore, it was deemed prudent to let go our anchor at 11 P.M., owing to the heavy sea rolling, which, together with the occurrence of the sudden death of a man of colour, from apoplexy, and the delirious state of another, disturbed my rest very much. The deceased black was educated at Sierra Leone, read and wrote very well, and I found him in conversation enlightened in respect to eternal things.

At 8 A.M., we sent a boat with twelve hands, under the command of Mr. Cockroft, on to Cape Coast Castle, for assistance, as we lay, without fuel, in a perfect calm ; and at 4 P.M., Mr. T., with six hands, was sent on shore to reconnoitre for wood. It is now late, and neither party has returned, which occasions apprehension, as Mr. T. was seen attempting to come off at sun-down.

24th.—All on board spent a distressed night, which was aggravated by the occurrence of new cases of sickness, and

by the death of the black whose delirious state is mentioned above.

At day-break the joyful intelligence was given, that Mr. T. and his companions were coming off from the shore, and in a short time they were along side. They were completely drenched with wet, the surf having broken over them several times. They had, on the previous evening, three times attempted to come off, but were as often repelled by the surf, which threatened to swamp the boat, and they were obliged to take shelter in a small village close by. The king or chief of this place received them with every demonstration of kindness and good will; he and his household vying in their services, drying the clothes of Mr. T. and his companions, and giving them spirits to apply both internally and externally, and food to appetites well prepared for it. Without the advantage of understanding the native language, the boat's crew fared so well that they returned on board the *Wilberforce* full of praises of their hospitable entertainers.

At 10 A.M., we discovered a vessel bearing down upon us, which shortly proved to be the *Soudan*, a welcome sight to us all, as our fuel and water were nearly exhausted. At noon she came up with us, and we were towed to secure anchorage in front of Cape Coast Castle.

The view in our vessel's track to this place was of the most highly picturesque description, uniting in it the sublime as well as the beautiful. The surf was breaking impetuously upon the beach and the base of the fort, in tremendous waves upon waves. Cape Coast Castle Fort, occupying a considerable surface, and being entirely white, reflected the splendour of a setting sun. Nature thus, in her stern and beautiful aspects, spoke to the hearts of us voyagers, with perils impending over us, and far separated from the scenes of our more peaceful days, in language which I could have more easily expressed, had it been less deep and touching. I felt myself for a moment but as a speck in a great creation or

system of things, for whom it was a delusion to think the Almighty could care. But it was only for a moment I could thus think, and do dishonour to the majesty of Him whose universal parentage lasts throughout the duration of the creatures He has made, exhausting not His love, wearying not His power, in whose ignorance even a sparrow falls not to the ground! Behind the castle, on rising ground, a small fort is erected, having a telegraph on its summit; and at night the castle and the fort exhibited a strong light—a very beautiful object of view.

Prior to our getting under weigh this forenoon, the remains of poor Albert were committed to the deep. All were much affected, and I trust profited by this—the second within two days—warning of our mortality.

There are a few of my ship-mates complaining; their cases are not, however, of a serious character; but this climate gives little warning. God be praised, my health never was better, not having had even a single headache, so that as my day has been, so has strength been given from above.

25<sup>th</sup>.—This last night proved much cooler than was that spent at our former anchorage; but on looking to the shore, observed, that there was a heavy fog hanging over the land, and a vapour arising, the effects of which we experienced at sea. Orders have been issued, that during our stay, no one shall remain on shore excepting between the hours of 3 and 6 P.M., and then only with the leave of Captain Trotter, to be granted to any individual *once* only. To the scientific gentlemen, such extension of time as may be required for their researches, is, however, to be granted.

We have had prayers as usual on the quarter deck. In the afternoon the Rev. Mr. Müller preached from 2nd Revelations, first six verses. Our congregation was numerous, and we had the addition of psalmody.

31<sup>st</sup>.—Since our arrival here we have been in a sad state of confusion, arising from starting our cargo, and receiv-

ing on board coals, water, and stores. Many have been on shore, and have been entertained by Mr. M'Lean, the Governor. Three days ago, H. M. S. *Iris*, of 28 guns, from a cruise, arrived; and last evening she sailed again, accompanied by the *Albert*, *Soudan*, and *Amelia*, for Accra, to which place we shall proceed this evening.

We took on board here a German missionary, as our chaplain, a Mr. Schoen:—he messes in the gun-room, and is to act as interpreter in the Housa language; also a black, as an assistant-clerk, and pilot for the Niger.

Our sick are fast recovering. I would that I could say that sickness or death had produced a deeper impression of the Divine power and goodness than it seems to have done upon some of those who are my immediate companions. O God, it is thy Spirit which can alone put life into the dead!

The King of Accra has sent us three fat bullocks, two of which have already been killed, and have proved excellent. This place affords little opportunity for casual traffic, as the merchants carry on a commerce with the natives, and are well supplied with goods from home for that purpose. The natives make of gold very pretty chains, rings, &c., which are of great purity, but expensive. The gold they obtain by washing the sand from some beds of the rivers. They have a few silk worms, from the produce of which they manufacture small fabrics, of which the colours are both pretty and durable.

The fort at Cape Coast mounts about 24 guns, and has a garrison of 70 liberated blacks.

*August 1st.*—Last evening, at sun-down, we left Cape Coast Castle, and in getting under weigh, nearly ran foul of the *Harriet*. During the night, we made little more than four knots. For the first time, I went to bed with the sensation of an approaching headache, and during the night was awake and feverish. The use of medicine brought me relief.

We had (this being sabbath) church service at the usual hour, and a sermon from Mr. Schoen, who appears a zealous and a good man ; but his foreign accent rendered him unintelligible to many, and the great heat of the atmosphere, 80°, with no breeze, disposed many rather to sleep than to sustained attention.

At 1 o'clock we arrived off B. Accra (which is in the meridian of Greenwich), in the midst of our little fleet. Three forts are in sight, from which wave the English, Dutch, and Danish colours, presenting a martial appearance. The sea is very heavy, and the surf beats as impetuously ashore, as at Cape Coast Castle.

2nd.—Last evening our chaplain read prayers forward, amongst the men, which was done with simplicity and sincerity of manner, and with less peculiarity of accentuation, so that his labours may become of great service. We are taking in coals here.

4th.—The confusion of taking in coals still continues ; but the air is much cooler, the thermometer standing at about 76°; some of our people are now ashore, and those who have been there speak favourably of the place, and of the soil as very productive. Gold is found and manufactured here in the same way as at Cape Coast. We have parted at this place with our boatswain, and with several unserviceable blacks and Kroomen, and have received on board, a black, as sailors' instructor, and a second sailing-master from H.M.S. *Iris*. At sun-down the *Iris* and *Soudan* got under weigh : the *Albert* and we followed at midnight, and made good progress.

6th.—Yesterday at noon the *Albert* and *Soudan* came up with us, and we had their respective captains on board. We have been called upon to exchange the new second master already, and have now a Mr. Green to do the duties of that office, and along with them, those of assistant-surveyor, which office is vacant by Mr. Cockroft's removal.



We are now approaching fast towards the dreaded Niger. As our trials become nearer, may we become better fitted, spiritually as well as bodily, to meet them.

Letters and newspapers from England of date to the 21st June, have been received on board, but none have come to me.

The weather is now exceedingly fine and cool, our situation at noon being  $5^{\circ}$  N. lat., and  $2^{\circ} 1'$  E. long. My health and spirits are good.

8th.—Was much refreshed by the reading of the Word, and prayers, this morning: but we had scarcely got half through with this when the heavens appeared to threaten a storm, and the crew were instantly dismissed to prepare to meet it accordingly.

At noon our long. was  $4^{\circ} 46'$  E. and lat.  $4^{\circ} 5'$  N., being about one degree only, from Cape Formosa, at which point it is proposed that we should enter the Niger.

10th.—The night of the 8th and the following day were very wet, which enabled us to collect a good deal of water, of which we were very short. At 2 o'clock (yesterday) we made land, and anchored off the coast, where there appeared an inlet, like a river. It was at first supposed to be one of the branches of the Niger; but it afterwards proved to be only a creek known by the name of Anyona Creek. The atmosphere was so thick that no observation could be taken; towards evening, however, it cleared up. Last night and this morning our chaplain was particularly impressive in his prayers, referring to our present position, and the prospects immediately before us.

At 3 o'clock I was called upon deck to witness a remarkable sight: this was a great rush of fresh water from the Niger, which travelled about 200 feet in thirty minutes. Our distance was about six miles from the river, it came rolling on, bearing everything with it, till the water, as far as the eye could see, was coloured by it, presenting a clayish appearance, and boiling with foam. Some idea could be thus formed

of the quantity of water rushing at this season from this great river. We have commenced receiving coals from the transport, but the heavy swell of the sea makes this both tedious and difficult.

More letters have been received from England, of date so late as July 10th, but still none for me.

The *Albert*, *Soudan*, and the schooner sailed for the bar this morning, and were soon out of sight. They are thus fairly entered on their course; may the Almighty's arm be around them! We have not yet completed taking in our coals, and are otherwise in a great bustle.

The weather is cool, particularly during the night. The thermometer seldom rises above 80° or 81°, in the early part of the day, and with little wind. After 2 o'clock, the wind generally blows freshly, and continues so all night, occasioning much rolling, especially as our vessel is lightly burdened.

## CHAPTER III.

Journal from August 15th to September.—Alburka Island.—The Benin branch of the Niger.—Oguberee.—Ivandee.—The King of Ibu.—Conferences and Treaties.—Commissioners at Iddah.

*August 15th.*—Yesterday we were engaged all day in receiving on board our stores, and part of this morning has been occupied in the same way. At 10 A.M., our steam was up, and we are now about entering the river.

1 o'clock we crossed the bar with fine smooth water, but little wind, and sailed in a N.N.E. direction; our lowest soundings being three fathoms, and that only for two or three soundings; the greater part of the bar being from three and a quarter, to three and a half. At this latter depth we anchored within a short distance of our three companion vessels; but where the *Albert* crossed, it would appear that she had only two fathoms of water.

On our right, are to be seen dreadful breakers extending a long way to sea; and on our left, is a sea raging from the encounter of the tide with the fresh water. The banks of the river at its entrance are separated about one mile, and exhibit great luxuriance, especially the right-hand bank, which is clothed with vegetation, even to the water's edge, consisting, principally, of mangroves and the stately palm. A few huts are discerned in the distance, surrounded by rank verdure.

When we had fairly crossed the bar the men went aft, headed by the boatswain, and gave three cheers, which seemed to take the captain by surprise.

18th.—Since our entrance into the river the rain has poured almost without cessation, night or day; we lie in very smooth water. Several of our people have been on the left bank, and they report of the country that it is almost impossible to penetrate it, owing to the thickness of the bush, besides which it is overflowed with water at present. This deprives our scientific men of the opportunity of conducting their researches. We have a marquee on shore to facilitate the making of observations.

The whole of our steamers have had their rudders injured on the voyage. The *Albert* having received repairs, we are about taking her berth on the soft bank for a similar purpose. The tide appears to rise and fall from six feet five inches to six feet six, with a current downward of about three and a half knots per hour.

Two days ago the *Soudan* recrossed the bar to get some of the model farm appurtenances which had been left on board the transport; she has again returned, all well.

On the morning of our arrival the *Albert* lost one of her artisans, a German, a man of dissolute habits; but the medical men do not think this to be a case of fever.

19th.—Having completed our repairs this morning at high water (5 o'clock), we hauled off into the stream, when the *Soudan* took our place.

To-day we have had no rain, and the atmosphere is much hotter in consequence. Notwithstanding we have had a fire in our cabins to dispel the damp and render the air more healthy. The thermometer was at 86° at noon.

20th.—This morning at sunrise we got up anchor, and, proceeding up the Nun branch of the Niger, were soon abreast of Alburka Island, which appears like nothing more than a large mass of mangrove trees growing up out of the

bed of the water. At the height of the tide nothing but water appears all around them; but at the ebb the roots are seen extending in fantastical shapes in the mud and sand.

At the extreme end of this island our course became very intricate, reminding me much of the canals of the Cienega in Colombia, South America. Through some parts our course was so intricate as not to exceed twice our vessel's length, the *Soudan* keeping pace with us. The *Albert* and *Amelia*, with a boat belonging to H.M.S. *Buzzard*, preceded us last evening; at 10 this morning, we overtook them, and at 11, the boat left us for the sea again, from which the distance was about twenty miles.

Our quarter-deck exhibits a lively scene, three different parties charting as we proceed, and taking the depth, width, &c., of the river every five minutes.

Above Sunday island the depth of the river continued for some distance from seven to seventeen fathoms, and the width about three hundred yards; both banks are covered in rich luxuriance, with wild cocoa-trees, cane, plantains, palm, and silk cotton trees. Some little soil appears among the wood, and an occasional hut; with two or three canoes up some beautiful creeks, the natives in which, we have not been able to induce to approach us. Our course to-day has mostly been N.N.E., we keeping the lead of the *Albert* by about a quarter of a mile.

At sundown we brought up off a village on the left bank of the river, which it appears is only about twenty-five miles above Lewis' Creek. The latter part of this day's progress was much impeded by a strong current, which ran at about four knots against us; in addition to which the river became very serpentine. Where we now anchor the river is about three hundred yards wide, and from fourteen to twenty fathoms in depth.

21st.—At sunrise our anchor was up, and our course taken in a northerly direction, a current of about one and a quarter knots still impeding our progress. The banks of the river

become more and more luxuriant, and the huts more numerous; but the timidity of the natives has prevented us from having any intercourse with them. However, to-day we have had visits from three large canoes, containing fifteen or sixteen men each, and having their respective kings or chiefs on board. They are very peaceable, although they carry muskets and a few long knives with them. We passed two islands, and the branch of the Niger that leads to the sea, on the right, by the river Bento. Our progress then was through a beautiful stream of great depth and width, until at 9 A.M., we came to the Benin branch, on the left. At this point a great body of water was found, in some parts sixty-two feet in depth, and at others, no bottom for our hand-lead; half a mile in breadth, and almost without a ripple upon it. Our course was E. by S. and E.S.E. until 4 o'clock, when we changed to N.W. by N. taking a more westerly branch than the *Albert* and the *Soudan*, and proceeding a little way down the Benin branch.

The weather continues very clear and fine, proving favourable for our exploring excursions: thermometer, at noon, 84°. The water is still of a white clayish colour, from the recent rains.

22nd.—Sunday. At sunrise all were in motion, and before we started, we fired the great gun, and played a tune on the bugle, intending that our situation should be known by the *Albert*. The stream continues in a pretty direct line, and we passed many villages on both banks; at 7 A.M., coming close abreast one on the right, containing about two hundred huts. The whole of its inhabitants appeared on the banks of the river to view the novel spectacle of our little fleet, hailing us aloud. This village is named Oguberee or Amazuma. The natives were timid about approaching us, and the chief failing to come off, we sent word by others that he had lost a *dash*, or gift, by not doing so. At 8 A.M., we came to another village on the left of the river, not so large as Oguberee, but surrounded by land producing, in great luxuriance, all tropi-

cal plants. On our approaching it, the natives appeared to be engaged in filling a large canoe with goats, oil, Guinea pepper, bananas, canes, &c., the women bearing the burdens to the water's edge, as busy all the time with their tongues as with their limbs. The natives delayed so long in coming off that we twice started ; but at length they came, offering their produce to us. They required such an exorbitant price, however, that we could do but little with them. For two miles they continued following us, and some of our people exchanged needles, and similar articles, for some of their bananas. At 9 A.M., we came to a branch running north-west, up which we proceeded a quarter of a mile ; the water was deep, and a view was afforded of its course for a mile a-head. On the right we passed a small village, with luxuriant bananas and plantains, but did not stop. Hitherto we have found the males and females with a handkerchief covering their loins, excepting those who seemed superiors in rank, who had a loose piece of cloth, apparently of British manufacture, covering their whole persons.

We had, as usual, morning prayers and reading ; but these engagements were much disturbed, owing to the necessity of attending to the progress of the vessel every few minutes. The subject of discourse was taken from the morning lesson ; the curing of Naaman the Syrian, of leprosy, which the preacher brought home personally, as exhibiting the condition of all unrepentant sinners.

At 3 P.M., a narrow creek appeared on our right of about a hundred yards width, into which we entered a short way. The banks were beautifully festooned from the water's edge to the tops of the trees, to the height of eighty feet. Returning to the main stream, on our right, there appeared a village with about forty huts, at which there was a flag hoisted of white ground, which had for device a large black fish, painted in a very rude manner, with crosses at the corners, and something very coarse, resembling birds, interspersed. As with the other villages we had passed, at its commencement and

termination were a great many small store huts with an elevated stage not unlike what is used by farmers in building their stacks of hay in harvest time. The whole population were on the banks to greet us, bustling about with bunches of plantains, and goats. After a little preliminary interchange of words, the chief came off to us, paddled in his canoe by two natives, he clad in a shirt reaching to his heels and carrying a spear, while the others were covered over the loins only, and were without weapons. After much palaver our captain received from these natives a small goat, for which they were amply paid. A general barter then commenced on board, our people exchanging empty bottles and needles for plantains.

This village is called Ivandee, and may contain about three hundred inhabitants. An elderly woman followed our course to the end of the village, dancing in a very fantastical manner.

There appeared to be a disease prevailing in both sexes, of a swelling or dropsical nature, which affected the belly and lower part of the body; a chief came on board very much disordered in this way. The females were to be seen carrying their infants tied on their backs, and in this condition paddling in small canoes by themselves, to their provision grounds.

At half-past 5 P.M., we got into the great stream, from which we observed three distinct villages, all on the right, and thickly inhabited. The males collected together, among whom were many stout and good-looking individuals; the women that were seen, were for the most part old, and haggard in their features. Our course has been so serpentine this day that we have not progressed more than five or six miles, although the rate at which we have sailed has sometimes been as much as four knots by the hour. At half-past 6, the river's breadth was about half a mile, our course northerly, and our rate of sailing seven knots, at 7 o'clock we dropt anchor.



23rd.—At sunrise we set sail again, at which time several canoes were alongside with goats and plantains: we proceeded in an E. by S. direction, passing a village on the left bank, called Baramberee, from which the chief came off in a canoe, with a white cock in his hand; but we could not stop to receive him. On the other side was another village, and continuing up the river, the whole was now studded on both sides with huts, whose inhabitants spoke the same language, until we reached Ibu, a distance of thirty miles, or upwards. At half-past 12, the rain fell very heavily, and we anchored, remaining till 3 o'clock, when we again proceeded, taking a N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  W. direction; and at 4 P.M., came to the termination of Stirling Island, on the right. Here we saw two very large canoes loaded with yams, palm oil, wood, &c.; they were covered with mats, and lying on the bank of the river, the natives in them being engaged in the cooking of food. They were crowded, and, as we passed, hailed us; but we could not stop.

At 6 P.M., we had great difficulty in stemming the current when opposite to a large village, the largest we have yet seen, which lies on the left bank, and is divided into three parts. It is named Indianna; its uppermost part is bounded by a small creek at right angles with the river, which at this place is about half a mile broad, and takes a north-easterly course.

25th.—Yesterday it was exceedingly wet which occasioned us frequently to drop anchor; and our progress was further delayed by taking a survey round an island, from which we had many visitors in canoes. Each of these natives appeared to have his hair done up in a different fashion from the rest; a small tuft, resembling a skull-cap, was to be seen on one; the head half-shaved in another; and on a third the hair was plaited on the crown. They were very amicable in their dispositions, and as usual very greedy of *dashes*. In exchange for the things which we gave them, needles, thread, and slops, we have received goats. We did not progress more than ten miles yesterday.

To day we proceed better, but we are still subject to very heavy rains.

At noon we passed Egaboh, from which place the chief, an old man, perhaps seventy years of age, came off to us. His legs were much swollen from disease of some kind, and he was unable to walk ; he wore a scarlet coat, like that of a private soldier. The river continues to run with great rapidity, and we find it difficult to make way. The banks all along are beautifully enriched with verdure.

We have anchored close to a creek, which is distant a mile and a half from Ibu.

26th.—Our people are delighted at our resting here. At break of day canoes were around us, and at noon we were honoured by a visit from the King of Ibu, a stout, ill-favoured looking man, of about sixty years of age. He was clothed in a scarlet jacket, seemingly the manufacture of the country, which was ornamented with gold lace ; white trowsers of Turkish dimensions ; and a cap, not unlike a fool's cap ; he had no shoes, but anklets of ivory and wild beasts' tusks relieved the bareness of his feet. The king's three sons accompanied him. As usual with the natives, they coveted everything they saw, nor rested contented with any amount of gifts. A waistcoat with shining buttons, which I wore, unfortunately caught the eye of one his Majesty's sons, who would not be at rest until he had got me to disrobe and put it on his back. This point gained, he paced the deck with all imaginable satisfaction with himself, leaving me to compensate myself for the loss of my garment, by the rather empty reflection, that it now covered the nakedness of royal shoulders. Another canoe shortly followed that in which the king came, which was supposed to contain his wives, perhaps thirty in number. It had a mast, and a flag unfurled, which was of white ground, with the corner resembling our union jack, and it had a disgusting representation of a face in profile, and some crosses. The king has pre-

sented to us a fine fatted bullock and a quantity of yams, and he expressed himself favourable to the object of our mission.

The *Albert* is now in sight, and it may be hoped that a few days' intercourse will conduce to bring about an amicable arrangement with the natives.

Among the women in the canoe were two girls of about nine years of age, most ridiculously dressed out, one of them being a daughter, and the other represented as the wife, of the King of Ibu.

The weather is very uncertain, several heavy showers falling in the course of the day. The thermometer was at 82° to 83° at noon; the heat not being oppressive, and the nights are cool.

28th.—Yesterday the king, with all his chiefs, had a long conference with Captain William Allen, Commissioner Cook, and other officers, on the subject of a treaty to do away with the slave-trade. The king and his chiefs acquiesced in all that was proposed—I fear with too great readiness—and promised to embrace Christianity, &c. In the meantime, many of us went on shore to see the country. Having proceeded up a narrow creek, we landed opposite a small hut, situated almost in a swamp, and where we got up to our ankles in clay and water at every step. The hut was tolerably neat and clean, had one apartment, and was smoothly plastered over with clay. Its occupants were somewhat alarmed by our approach. Finding that we were at a considerable distance from the king's residence, having procured a pilot, we again embarked in our boat, pursuing a course in which we passed several small creeks, all of which appeared thickly studded with huts on their banks. At length we branched up one of these creeks on our left, which did not exceed four feet wide, very crooked, and overshadowed by trees and bush. After availing ourselves of the boat as long as we could, we leaped on what must be called shore, for the convenience of the word, and made the best progress we could through mud,

and clay, and water, in which we were sometimes sunk to our knees almost. After wading through such a swamp for a quarter of a mile or more, we arrived at the abode of royalty at Ibu, which consisted of some detached huts. On entering the main hut, we found that the buildings formed a rude quadrangle. Three sides were covered, so that we could be protected from rain; whilst the centre was an open space of filth and wet. Shortly after our arrival, a stout female received us; she had little covering except the waist-cloth, but was profusely ornamented with jewellery, and had ivory anklets of several inches in width round her legs. The hut was presently filled by natives, male and female, to whom we were subjects of lively interest. We produced our beads, small bells, kaleidiscopes, &c., and commenced a general *dash*. Whilst thus engaged, our ears were assailed by rather unearthly sounds, which appeared to proceed from a source gradually drawing nearer to us. This proved to be the king's trumpeter, a mirth-exciting personage. He carried a horn or trumpet, hung with human teeth by way of ornament, and his music quite deafened us; beside which, his presence bringing with it that of a great many more natives, did not help to purify the atmosphere of the palace! Among others who appeared with him was one of the king's many wives, who was dressed similarly to the female described above. She received great homage, each native passing before where she sat, and bowing their heads to the dust. This ceremonial of respect on the part of her royal master's subjects gone through, she approached to us, and gave us a welcome. We found it necessary to propitiate her favour by a *dash*, in return for which we received a hearty shake of the hands. After about an hour and a half stay we departed, not much pleased by the want of hospitality we had experienced, as in return for our many presents we had received only a small fowl and some gourra nuts, too bitter to be agreeable. In wandering about the out-houses, I thought

that I discovered some poor victims destined for slavery ; but, situated as we were, I could not satisfy myself that such was the design with which they were chained to the spot where I saw them.

Plantains, yams, ayuca, and canes grow luxuriantly on all sides ; but the country, from its great humidity, must be very unhealthy. Just now it is about the middle of the wet season, and the inundations will go on increasing for a month or six weeks to come. On our return we had considerable difficulty in threading our way, and were obliged to avail ourselves of a leaky canoe to get on board.

Our purser has laid in a considerable stock of fine yams, at about 25 cowries, or a farthing each, many of them weighing from four to six pounds.

The natives having had some intercourse with Europeans before, were not deficient in wit when bargaining with us.

The treaties were signed this day at 2 o'clock, when each ship was decorated with the colours of all nations, and three guns were fired in honour of the occasion.

When the parties to the treaty were met, special prayer was proposed, and agreed to by the King of Ibu, prior to which the nature of prayer was explained to the king, and he seemed to be satisfied. However, before it was concluded he became uneasy, lest the God of the whites should murder him and his people, and he immediately called for his *fetish* or priest. But, on farther explanation, his fears were allayed, and the service was concluded to general satisfaction.

The *dash* from Queen Victoria was then presented, consisting of a sword, a belt, clothing, &c. ; when the king remarked, that they were very well in their place ; but that he preferred articles of merchandize, in which he could traffic with advantage ; and expressed a great desire to have English as residents, to instruct his people in the white man's religion, and also in the capacity of merchants. The missionary

has left his black servant with the natives of Ibu, and by the time of our return down the river, will be able to form an opinion as to how the wishes of the King of Ibu may be met. At 3, got up our anchor and departed.

The day has been fine, and at 11 P.M. we reached Okok, a distance of about thirty miles from Ibu. The banks of the river on both sides are equally rich and beautiful, to all appearance, with those mentioned before; but they are more flat and marshy. We are now arrived at the most unhealthy part of the Delta; but God's arm, which has been as a wall of fire around us, is not shortened.

29th.—Sunday. Got up quite refreshed by a good night's rest, and attended service as usual. We lie at anchor here.

31st.—We have made little progress. Yesterday it was rainy, but to-day we have a return of fair weather. The air is oppressive, the thermometer at 84, and most of us are very languid in consequence. The scenery for the last day or two has exceeded all before it, consisting of extensive flats of green plain, on the right, bordered by lofty trees, with the most picturesque foliage. The stream, although there is a strong current, is as smooth as a lake, and high land appears in the distance. The sun-setting surpasses all that I have seen in other climes, and exceeds the descriptions which I have read, even those which seemed at the time to have most taxed the powers of delineation of those who penned them.

September 1st.—To-day it is very showery, and our progress is slow. We have swampy embankments on both sides, the ground appearing sometimes almost as if it were lower than the water. We have passed several small islands, and the stream carries with it many aquatic flowers.

Blessed be God, our crews continue healthy, there not being a bad case among us.

At 11 A.M. we passed Damuggo, and in our course were rather baffled by shoal-water.

At 5 P.M. we had opposite to us, on our left, the river Edoh, into which we entered a short way, being prevented proceeding any distance by the strength of the current and numerous shoals.

At sun-down the *Albert* appeared in sight. She also had entered the Edoh. We learned from her that Captain Trotter had gone on board the *Soudan*, with the view of penetrating farther into that river, and was to return to the *Albert* early on the following morning. We did not anchor till about 11 P.M., it being a beautiful, clear, moon-light night.

2nd.—At day-light the *Soudan* and *Albert* were in sight on the opposite side of the river, where they got aground more than once. It continues very shoally, with much weed floating about, and a very low swampy shore. At 10 A.M. we came near to Lander's Island.

The vegetation here is quite different in character, consisting principally of large, coarse, grassy herbage, with occasionally small yellowish green bushes; and in the back-ground (on the left), rising ground and hills, green to the very summit, and extending a considerable distance ahead, indicating our approach to Iddah. The heat is great, the thermometer at 84° at noon. At 8 P.M. we anchored off the cliffs on which Iddah is situated. These cliffs do not exceed 200 feet in height, and are very precipitous, forming a striking contrast to the scenery we have been accustomed to lately. The huts on the summit of the cliffs appear of a conical shape; they are roofed with coarse grass, the walls wattled and clayed over; and on a sand-bank in the middle of the stream, there were several huts, which, at this season of the year, must be completely flooded, and consequently unhealthy. The place of our anchorage is understood to be about 300 feet above the level of the sea, so that our ascent has been about one and half feet per mile, as we are about 200 miles from the coast, and 40 from the confluence of the Tehadda with the Quora or Niger. Five beautiful mountains, called

the Rennels, are on our left, which, with their table summits, have a fine effect. We may suppose greater healthiness to prevail generally in their proximity.

Yesterday morning we got up our steam, and ran to the other side of the river, as it was more convenient for obtaining wood, and anchored alongside the *Soudan*, which was there for a similar purpose. Our situation was quite close to the bush, and our Kroomen went on shore to cut down wood. The natives took alarm at first, and collecting in considerable numbers, armed with bows, surrounded Lieutenant Strange and the party on shore; but Lieutenant S. succeeded in calming their fears, and the Kroomen continued their work unmolested.

The bank of the river is very marshy; but, on penetrating a little into the interior, the country is elevated and dry, producing yams, Indian corn, casada, &c. in abundance, and the grounds are tolerably cleared, and in some places enclosed. It appears that the people of Iddah, and the natives on this side, are at war, and the latter are jealous of us, because of our having had intercourse with their enemies.

The *Amelia* and *Albert* are still on the other side, and our Captain and the Commissioners have been for the last two days at Iddah, making treaties with the king of that place.

Yesterday we had a good deal of rain, but towards evening it became dry. Many of our officers were on shore shooting, but they had no sport.

5th.—Last night we drew off into the stream, in order to escape the malaria of the bush; the other vessels followed our example, and tomorrow morning we intend resuming our station, as we have not completed getting on board our supply of wood.

The views from our decks have been exceedingly beautiful, that on the right presenting the cliff, with its village, extending about a mile, and elevated above our level from 200 to 250 feet, with a rich back-ground of hill and



dale, laid out, as it were, in the style of a gentleman's lawn in England. That on the opposite side exhibited a gradually ascending country, clad, as far as the eye could reach, in rich luxuriant foliage, and in the distance lost in the azure blue of the heavens. Had I been a painter or a poet, I should have preferred this latter scene; there was the uncontrolled freedom of nature in her most beautiful characters in it. The former, on the other hand, exhibited something of the appearance of art, which is always (compared to nature), constrained and narrow. But to me, a Briton, standing on the banks of the Niger, the rude village of Iddah, with its rough and partial resemblance to the fields, the lawns, and parks of far distant England, spoke in a language superadded to that of material nature; and I loved to dwell upon features which recalled to my mind scenes and associations of other days. To confirm this preference, I might also have reflected on the circumstance, that in the limits of the country on the other side of the river, whose distant features my eye could not scan, were understood to be some of the busiest haunts of the cruelty and wickedness incident to the slave-trade. A moral tinge shaded material beauty, if it could not altogether change its character.

The King of Iddah having assented to, and signed the treaty for the total abolition of the slave-trade in his dominions, was about to be presented with a *dash* of various articles; but he rejected them, deeming it quite unworthy of a king to receive a present; and said they might be given to some of his servants. The king favours the project of forming a model farm at the confluence; and as his power extends so far, an arrangement is entered into with him, and he sends some of his people with us to facilitate that object. His majesty is an elderly person, and receives great respect from his subjects.

7th.—Yesterday early we had steam up, in order to recross the river; and at noon we had a gentle tornado of

wind and rain, which lasted about two hours, and agreeably cooled the air.

At 2 P.M., a man of colour fell overboard from the *Albert*, and although three boats were immediately let down, the violence of the current was such, that his body could not be found, and the *Albert* dropping down the stream to pick up her boats, and we, in attempting to cross to the Iddah side, were carried upon a sand-bank, where we are likely to remain fast until lightened, as our efforts, united to those of the *Albert*, have failed in getting us off.

The *Albert* has lost a white man by fever, after an illness of three days, and there are six other cases on board. We have three or four cases of sickness, but only one of fever.

This day we continue to lighten the ship; but we are not likely to get off until more water is on the bank.

9th.—Last night there was a heavy fall of rain, which enabled us to get off the bank in the morning; and this day we have been engaged in re-loading until sun-down, when we got under weigh and proceeded a few miles, where we again anchored. There was a slight tornado in the forenoon.

## CHAPTER IV.

From September to December.—Sickness.—Traffic.—Arrival at the spot chosen for the Model Farm.—Return of the Soudan and the Wilberforce.—Fernando Po.—Dr. Collman.—St. George's Bay.—Return of the Albert.—Death of Captain Bird Allen.—Continued Sickness and Deaths.—Death of Dr. Vogel.

OUR reports from on board the *Albert* are very afflicting, the list of sick being now twenty, among whom are the cases of assistant-surgeon Nightingale, and the sailing-master, Mr. Harvey; the case of the former is said to be a very bad one. On board the *Wilberforce* we have six or eight cases, but of these two or three are of doubtful character. A young man was taken ill suddenly yesterday, and is now delirious; two others have been in the same state for some days. O God! our times are in thy hands; may we improve by what is taking place around us, so that when it is thy will to call us, we may not be unprepared.

Our progress has only been about twenty miles, through the midst of enchanting scenery of hill and dale, both near at hand and in the distance. The hills are clad to the very summit with fine timber. Few palm trees have been observed, but many wild cottons. On both sides numerous villages have sent forth their inhabitants, all eager to get a glimpse of us as we passed along; and canoes loaded with produce, and having small horses in them, crossed the river. One came alongside in which were two horses, or rather

ponies, for their size is small; they did not appear to possess much spirit. We passed the village of Bocqua early in the day; and the King William mountains have been prominent on our right. The current is still strong; but not so strong as off Iddah, nor is the river so broad here as there.

10th.—This morning, we found ourselves bounded on every side by lofty mountains, exhibiting here and there a rugged ground-work relieved by occasional verdure, and then a dense collection of trees and shrubs, forming themselves into so many huge sugar-loaves. On the summits of some of the hills we observed native huts erected; a rare deviation, however, from the general practice of having them in the swamps or close by the bank of the river.

Many canoes have been alongside for the purpose of bartering yams with us. The natives in them had their faces much disfigured by the process of tattooing; they were generally more honest and fair in their dealings than those we had before anything to do with. For the first time, I heard the purser say, "Give them what they ask for their yams, as their demands appear to be reasonable."

We had the thermometer, at noon, at 86° in our cabin; and our sick-list remains in much the same state.

We have just overtaken the *Soudan*, and find her surgeon, Mr. Marshall, and several of her officers, besides many of the crew, sick; and in consequence have sent on board assistant-surgeon Thompson, whose means, I trust, may be blessed by the Great Physician.

Mount Soracte is now close ahead of us in a N. by W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  W. direction; and Mount Erskine, lying W. by N. from the ship, is likewise in view.

12th.—Yesterday we anchored abreast of the spot contemplated for the model farm, and at an early hour most of the officers of the expedition went ashore. The scenery in the neighbourhood is very fine; the land is cleared to some extent; it has good pasturage, and has the advantage of a

diversity of climate. Near it are the remains of a village, which was deserted in consequence of the Fellatah wars. Almost immediately many of the articles destined for the farm were landed, and a tent was pitched for those intending to remain; but doubt arising as to the advantages of the situation, several returned on board.

Several of the natives, including one of rank and authority, came on board; the Commissioners conferred with them, and they afterwards sailed with us along the coast, by the Niger branch, in order that we might explore the country. Our progress opened to us new features of beauty, and of more solid recommendation. The hills which bound the spot chosen for the model farm on the north, are of great extent, and exhibit trees from their base to the very summit, which is table, in character like the Caraccas in South America. In this neighbourhood, the Landers erected a house, in which they lived six months, while the *Quorra* steam-boat was aground. The land in its vicinity is distinguishable at a distance by its being cleared of timber.

We continued exploring till sun-down, when we returned to our former anchorage.

This day Mr. T. has been taken very unwell, and two others of my mess-mates are complaining. Last night Nebon died, after an illness of eight days; he is the first white man we have lost by fever. The two formerly mentioned as ill from fever, continue in a doubtful state. The *Albert* has lost a man also, by trade a cooper.

The weather is now very hot, and has been so for the last two or three days, without any rain. This, together with additional exertions required from our men, has not operated favourably to their health.

Was much refreshed by our morning and mid-day services, and in company with five others, received the sacrament.

Have given some of the Bibles, received for distribution,

to Mr. A., a gardener, who is about to stop at the model farm.

13th.—This day proves very hot, thermometer 87° in the shade, and our sick are much worse; but no new cases. Several cases are on board the *Soudan* and *Albert*, some of which are very doubtful. Prepare, O Lord! the dying for death, and enable the living to lay it to heart that they must soon die.

15th to 29th.—Mr. T. has been on board the *Albert* for the last two days on duty, and has returned sick; my attendance is required there in his stead. The *Albert* was lying close to the shore, under cover of a table-hill which forms part of the model farm, and there being no place set apart for us to write in, I had to rig a place on the quarter-deck under the awning, amongst some of the sick officers, which for a time was comfortable enough, but afterwards I found the exposure, and the nature of my position telling upon my health by severe pains in my back, and irritation in the stomach; and on the 17th a tornado of wind and rain compelling me to change my situation, I was immediately afterwards overcome by a heavy drowsiness and stupor. An opportunity arising, I returned on board the *Wilberforce*, where Dr. Prichard, perceiving my state, ordered me to take medicine, and abstain from reading or writing. Now for the first time I was seized with violent vomiting, which somewhat relieved me. In the night I lay sleepless, and the following day, after taking a glass of ale, by direction of the doctor, I was again seized with the sickness and vomiting. In the evening my cot was carried to the poop, and placed alongside those of four of my mess-mates, also sick, where I remained till Sunday the 26th. I was informed during that period I had been very ill.

So far as I can recollect, the season of sickness to me was a period that I found God as my stay and succour, and such I learned was the nature of my replies to the various inqui-

ries respecting my health. My spirit was drawn out in prayer for distant relatives and friends, and especially for those immediately around me, some of whom were between life and death, their spirits on the wing for another world. I had strong pleadings that God might not only take away their bodily sickness, but that he would sanctify also the visitation to the profit of their souls.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, assistant-surgeon Nightingale died on board the *Albert*; and there being many in the squadron sick, a determination was made to dispatch the *Soudan* to Fernando Po with the whole of the invalids, under command of Lieut. Fishbourne. I declined going on board the *Soudan* when the offer was made to me, and she sailed, taking our assistant-surgeon, Mr. Marshall, her own surgeon being still very ill. On the 21<sup>st</sup> the *Wilberforce* and the *Albert* got ready to sail, the latter to pursue her course to Boussa, and the former for the Tchadda. Much to my surprise, however, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> I was informed that we were following the *Soudan*, with a great addition to the number of the sick.

On our passage we stopped at Ibbu or Eboe to get a supply of wood. Neither the king nor any of the chiefs came off, which occasioned some surprise, and in our course further down we could not induce the natives to fell timber, or supply that which they had in readiness. We were compelled to depend upon our own men entirely; and our passage was further tedious from the necessity of anchoring every evening at sun-down, to avoid danger in the intricate or unknown parts of the river. On the 25<sup>th</sup>, our ears were cheered by the welcome sound of the breakers on the bar off Formosa point, where we anchored near to the place in which we had formerly been. On the 27<sup>th</sup>, we sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Wakeham\*, our purser. His remains were

\* His wife had departed only a few weeks previously; as we afterwards learned, she died in England. Of course Mr. W. was spared the pang of learning her departure. May the spirits of both have experienced the joyfulness of a heavenly recognition!

interred, in the evening, on the left (in ascent) bank of the river; where a tablet of wood is erected, intimating whose remains it covers.

29th.—I find myself recovering strength, and some of my messmates improve also.

October 1st.—Fernando Po. Anchored off this place at about 8 A.M., and were presently visited by our assistant-surgeon, now serving on board the *Soudan*, and by Lieut. Blunt, commanding H.M.S. *Pluto*, at present lying here. Surgeon T. informed us of the deaths of Mr. Marshall and Mr. Waters, both of the *Soudan*; also of the sickness of two of the *Albert's* people; and that assistant-surgeon S. with the sick, were, immediately on their arrival at the mouth of the river, transhipped on board H.M.S. *Dolphin* for the Island of Ascension.

We left the river's mouth on the evening of the 29th ultimo, and had a very pleasant crossing of the bar, as the sea was smooth and the current aiding our progress on to Fernando Po; this place not being very healthy at this time, rather deterred me from going on shore in my present debilitated condition. However, blessed be God, my strength comes apace, and I have much reason of thankfulness for the measure of health I enjoy, although I feel some of the effects of the fever, by a shaking of the hand and general unsteadiness. Mr. F. still remains in a very precarious state, as is also the sailing-master of the *Albert*, who is with our sick on board of the *Wilberforce*.

2nd.—To-day, Fitzgerald, a stoker, died, and others appear to be very ill.

Oh Lord, put the arms of thy love around us, and bless thy fearful dispensations to the sanctification of souls.

Capt. W. Allen has sent for me, to request my going on board H.M.S. vessel *Soudan*, to take some charge of her stores, &c.; which, owing to the recent deaths and sickness on board that vessel, is left without any clerk in charge; for



some time I hesitated, being completely ignorant of ship's accounts and duty: however, the urgency of the case decided my acceptance of what my present debilitated condition might have dictated to a refusal, as I had been so lately recovered from the fever: I therefore join the *Soudan* this evening, and the *Wilberforce* will shortly start for the Island of Ascension. Sailing-master Harvey is now dead, and Dr. Collman is not expected long to survive.

5th.—I have now been two days on board the *Soudan*, where my duty has been the melancholy one of collecting and forwarding the effects, in clothes, &c., of the deceased officers.

The gun-room exhibited, on my entering it, a sad scene of desolation, and even the atmosphere tells how busily Death has been doing his work. This, in my feeble state of health, has tended to throw me back; but thanks again to my Almighty Father, His arm sustains me.

We have now no sick on board, excepting Lieut. Fishbourne, who will be removed in a day or two to H.M.S.V. *Wilberforce*; Lieut. Strange takes the command here, and Mr. T. is appointed surgeon, we are about to receive from H.M.S.V. *Pluto*, a second master, and one who understands the management of the engine, and in a few days we sail for the mouth of the Niger, to render assistance to the *Albert*.

Dr. Collman is now dead on board of the *Wilberforce*, and I trust he has made a happy change, for he was a man whose piety was earnest at the same time that his disposition was quiet and peaceable: he leaves a widow to mourn his loss.

9th.—Have been very much occupied, having had scarcely time to say farewell to my old shipmates on board the *Wilberforce*, most of whom I am glad to learn are convalescent, excepting the serjeant of marines, who is very ill, and apparently just on the eve of departure from this vale of tears. At 10 A.M., this day we have got under weigh from Clarence Cove, directing our course to St. George's Bay, to obtain Kroomen and yams.

10th.—St. George's Bay. I got up this morning unprepared for the spectacle of the beautiful scenery around me. We are closed in on every side, excepting that by which we entered; the majestic peak, said to be 15,000 feet above the level of the sea, clad in dewy clouds which rise from the plains below, overhangs us, and noble trees grow in all directions, in the wild luxuriance of nature, the palm alone appearing to receive attention at the hands of man.

The palm yields a refreshing drink, not unlike buttermilk in taste; but if it is allowed to stand for a few hours after being taken from the tree, it has a very intoxicating and prejudicial effect upon Europeans. The oil of the palm is extracted from the nut, which is pounded, and boiled till all the water is absorbed; when cooled, it becomes hard, and has a fine yellow colour.

The natives here are rather a barbarous, yet a simple-minded race. Their wants are few, and for these, articles of their own manufacture, are generally made from grass and animals' skins, into waist-bands. Living the life of hunters, muskets, powder and shot, are of great esteem among them, and are generally asked from Europeans in exchange for the commodities they have to give; I was sorry to find that European intercourse had given them also a taste for tobacco and spirits. The chiefs plaister their hair with clay, so that behind, it sometimes resembles the three-storied wigs of our ancestors. I could not discover that they had any religion; a plurality of wives is allowed, but infidelity on either side is severely punished: generally the offenders have both hands chopped off. They cultivate the yam to a considerable extent, and the quality of their produce is deemed the best, or among the best, in Africa. Indian corn, plantains and cocoa, in small quantities, are also grown by them. Their houses are of the worst description both as regards their construction and cleanliness, and they do not appear to have much regard to their situation, as they are often found in an unhealthy locality.

Here we obtained a few hundred yams at about a halfpenny each, the natives being paid in English handkerchiefs. We could procure neither goats nor poultry.

We have engaged eight Kroomen, one of them being the brother to our head Krooman, Wilson.

11th.—Having made all preparations, we got up anchor, and proceeded towards Cape Nun; but the engine being out of order, and the man to whose management it was entrusted not knowing much about it, our progress has been slow.

13th to 17th.—This morning (13th) at 6, we were little more than a hundred miles distant from Cape Nun, when our engine stopped altogether; but by 8 A.M., it was repaired, and we are again proceeding, making up for the distance we were drifted leeward while the repairs were going on; and by tomorrow (14th) we hope to be where we were yesterday morning at six. I cannot sufficiently admire the temper and spirit with which Lieut. Strange bears up under repeated trials.

The gun-room cabins are particularly hot and suffocating, and when the engines are at work, are more like ovens than sleeping places, my own especially. It was in this dormitory that Mr. Waters breathed his last.

At about 7 A.M., of the 16th, we were about entering the Niger, when we discovered two steamers coming out, which proved to be the *Ethiope* and *Albert*. It would appear that the latter had ascended as high as Rabba, when the sickness on board obliged her to return, Dr. McWilliam taking the command, as all her officers were laid down by the fever. Fortunately, whilst off Stirling, the *Albert* met the *Ethiope*, a steamer belonging to Mr. Jamieson, of Liverpool, and her commander, Mr. Becroft, immediately went on board, and seeing the crippled state of her officers and crew, took charge of her, and caused his own steamer to follow in their wake. On meeting the *Albert* the only death I heard of was that of Mr. Kingdom, of the *Soudan*, a most devoted young man, schoolmaster for the seamen.

We turned our head and followed the *Albert* to Fernando Po; all the crew and officers being sick, it is difficult to say what their next course will be.

17th.—For the last twelve hours we have been sailing only by wind, in order to save coals: but we do not progress above one mile per hour.

Noon.—We have just got up steam, and hope to reach Fernando Po by tomorrow at noon.

As usual, this being sabbath, we had morning prayers, with a sermon; and in the evening, prayers, all being conducted by Lieut. Strange, with great devotion of spirit.

18th to 20th.—At noon we arrived at Clarence Cove (Fernando Po), when we learned that the *Albert* had preceded us the night before, and had landed all her sick. Captain Bird Allen was landed in a very dangerous condition; but we were informed that he had rallied a little, and to Lieut. Strange he was able to say that he hoped to be able to see me on business connected with the service in a few days. The sick encountered the landing pretty well; but were all obliged to be carried a considerable way in their cots. They occupy three or four large houses. As the island is comparatively healthy, the thermometer is ranging from 72° to 74°, it is hoped they will soon rally.

20th.—Went on shore, for the first time on this island; and called upon Capt. Trotter, whom I found in conversation with the Rev. Mr. Schoen; Capt. T. was so much changed that I did not know him for some time; my stay was very short, but I had time to go and see the sick, among whom I found some very ill. At this time I made the acquaintance of Dr. Prince and the Rev. Mr. Clarke, Baptist missionaries, who are doing a great deal of good at Fernando Po. Dr. P. recollected having met me at a friend's house in Edinburgh.

Capt. Bird Allen continues very ill; but he is, when sensible, in a most happy frame of mind, serene and composed to a de-

gree which made every one who saw him when his illness was evidently threatening a crisis, envy his situation. Dr. Prince and Mr. Clarke have been most assiduous in their attention, visiting him twice a day, and reading and praying with him.

Poor Mr. Wyllie of the *Albert*, is dead; he was a lively young man, and a widowed parent will mourn his loss.

21st.—This day the purser's steward of the *Albert* died, and Mr. Wilmot, clerk, is in a very delirious state; likewise many more in the hospital under similar afflictive circumstances.

23rd.—Letters were shown to me intended for England, some of which were addressed to the friends of Capt. B. Allen, faithfully representing to them his state of mind, and as drawing near to death; and another giving a shocking account of the barbarities practised at the death of a chief on the main land. It is the opinion of the people, to which this chief belonged, that in the other world those of rank are waited upon as in this, and, according to the rank of an individual, so many are sacrificed at his death, that they may be prepared to wait upon him in the new sphere of his being.

At 6 P.M., I went to the house of Dr. Prince, and had some very pleasant conversation with him, and afterwards attended a prayer-meeting. There were from thirty to forty blacks present, and after Dr. P. had prayed, two or three of his congregation pleaded with the God and Father of our Saviour, Christ, with much simplicity and earnestness.

24th.—We had morning service on board the *Albert*; the day was wet, and finding myself not very well, I did not go on shore.

25th.—I have written letters home, which will be carried by a vessel about to sail for Liverpool; she will carry mourning into many circles.

Capt. Bird Allen breathed his last at 11 A.M., and this evening at six o'clock, we consigned his mortal remains to the silent tomb. Who can doubt that he has changed a

mortality of care and conflict for an immortality of peace and glory?

28th.—This morning, at 3 P.M., Lieut. Stenhouse died, and at 6, we buried him on the right of Capt. Allen. Mr. Wyllie lies on the left. The evening before Lieut. S.'s death, I looked upon him three different times, when it was too evident to me that he was drawing to his end, from his difficult breathing and delirious state. I trust that he has exchanged the prospects which his abilities gave of an earthly promotion, for the realities of a heavenly one, the reward of faith in Jesus Christ. Capt. Trotter has much to bear under these repeated losses of his most valuable co-labourers and friends, and he has suffered much in body as well as mind in consequence.

Assistant-surgeon Mr. Woodhouse, continues very ill, and Dr. McWilliam has been laid down to-day, sick. This indeed is a trying season for all. O God! give us grace to profit by it.

30th.—This day we have been again called upon to discharge the last duties of the living to the dead to our late messmate Mr. Woodhouse; he had been ailing for three weeks, during the last ten days of which he was visibly declining; at noon he was in much the same state as he had been in for some days: by 2 P.M., his spirit had quitted its earthly tenement, and by 6 he was laid in his narrow resting-place, at the feet of the late Captain Bird Allen. Oh Father! stay the hand of death: let it be said, it is enough.

Mr. W.'s death makes the nineteenth among the company of the *Albert*. Dr. McWilliam is in a very critical state.

In the evening, I called upon Dr. Prince, and found that he had been engaged in committing two of his people to the grave. I afterwards attended a prayer-meeting, where many were present, and several offered up prayer; at the close, all the black people came round me, and we shook hands very cordially.

On leaving the prayer-meeting I went to see Messrs.

W——, F——, B——, and W——, and found them recovering gradually. Most of them had been sick for nearly forty days.

*November 6th.*—Yesterday morning H.M.S. *Pluto* arrived here, having on board, Commander Fishbourne and Mr. Bowden, both perfectly recovered by their cruise to the Island of Rollas. She also brought favourable reports of our companions on board the *Wilberforce*, who were left four days previously at the above island, from which they were about proceeding for Ascension Isle.

Yesterday we committed the remains of Mr. Wilmott, the clerk, to the silent grave. His deliverance appeared a merciful one, as from the period of his being attacked, he remained quite delirious. This makes the twentieth death among the *Albert's* company, and to-day a man named Morgan from the same ship, breathed his last. Dr. McWilliam continues in the same critical state; the other sick are recovering. Capt. Trotter does not improve in strength, his activity of mind proving an obstacle to his convalescence. But in the midst of all I have to acknowledge his great kindness to me personally.

The *Pluto* sailed this evening on a cruise, taking with her Mr. Carr, the manager of the model farm, towards the Niger. One of the *Albert's* boats, manned by Kroomen, is towed by the *Pluto*, and will carry Mr. C. as far as Brass, another mouth of the Niger, and will then return to Fernando Po.

*14th.*—We have just returned from on board the *Albert*, where we united in church service. The heat is now excessive, the thermometer being 87°, without a breath of wind. During the last two or three days we have had much rain, accompanied by a good deal of wind, generally commencing at 4 A.M., and clearing up about noon.

Dr. McWilliam is very much better, but Capt. Trotter recovers slowly. The *Soudan* is nearly dismantled, and we are in hopes of joining the *Albert* in a few days, and proceeding in her to the Isle of Ascension.

Have written to Mrs. L., sister of the late Lieut. Stenhouse, announcing his death, and by the same opportunity wrote to my own friends.

It had been scarcely arranged that Capt. Trotter should return to England by the *Warri*, when her commander was drowned in attempting to land over a heavy surf, a few miles from this. Mr. Saunders, Capt. Trotter's second-master, takes the command of her home.

19th to the 23rd.—For several days I had been very feverish, arising from exposure and fatigue of body and mind; my appetite gone and my nights restless, and, on the 19th, I was attacked by violent vomiting, which unfitted me for duty, and was carried to the shore with little prospect of much comfort there, which I found verified. Fever, with ague and frequent vomiting, lasted during several days. On the 22nd, Capt. Trotter saw me, and recommended my accompanying the *Albert* as far as the Island of St. Thomas's, as she was to tow the *Warri* thus far on her homeward voyage. Accordingly I went on board on the 23rd, in a very weak condition, when Dr. McWilliam seeing me, wondered at my attempt, and advised my immediate return to the hospital, advice with which I complied, not without sorrow. I was greatly fatigued by my useless exertion.

23rd.—At 3 P.M., the *Albert* got up steam, and proceeded with the *Warri* in tow, the latter having, beside Capt. Trotter, the Rev. Mr. Schoen, Dr. Stanger, and several invalids on board. The return of the *Albert* is expected in about eight or ten days.

27th.—Till this day I have had the fever and ague, with great nausea and sickness. My sensations have been quite different from those which I experienced in the Niger, and I conceive my attack to have been a bilious fever brought on by mental anxiety. I am now greatly recovered, and, under God, have to thank my kind friends Dr. Prince and Mr. Clarke, under whose roof I took shelter for some days. May



God render back into their bosoms a thousand-fold for all their kindness.

29th.—Went on board the *Soudan* to-day, to resume my duties, but felt exceedingly weak and languid, almost unfit for any exertion. We are all dreary in the absence of the *Albert*.

December 4th.—Last evening the *Albert* hove in sight, to the joy of us all; but we were grieved to learn that many who were convalescent at the time of her leaving Fernando Po were again laid down by sickness. This climate is a very trying one, and I shall be glad to leave it.

My friends Dr. Prince and Mr. Clarke are travelling in the islands about Bimbia, where they meet with much encouragement.

We are busily engaged in getting wood on board, and in preparing a composition of bricks, being small coal and pitch, for the voyage of the *Albert* to Ascension.

18th.—A few days ago our botanist, Dr. Vogel, was taken very ill (a return of the fever, with dysentery), which determined him and Mr. R—, the geologist, both Germans, to accompany us; but, alas! man resolves, but God orders; the cold hand of death has laid the former low. On the morning of the 17th I called at his place of abode, and learned that I had come a few minutes too late to see him in life. He appeared much reduced in frame, and as if soul and body had separated without a struggle. Mr. R— came on board greatly solemnized in mind by the loss of his friend and countryman.

At 7 A.M., this day (18th) the welcome orders were given to get up anchor, and at 8, we were steaming from the shores of Fernando Po. What a history has passed since we anchored there! The young, the robust, the generous, the talented, the mature in years and strength, have been laid low; wives have been made widows, parents have been bereaved, the expectants, more than one, of a happy union, have been despoiled of their hopes; and the living have been suf-

ferred to survive, only that they might feel their own weakness more, and how entire is their dependence upon God. How fearful, O Lord, art thou in thy chastenings—fearful only unless the light of faith reflect itself upon thy providence, and reveal thy hidden mercies; but thou hast called into existence not this world only; the heavens are thy throne as the earth is thy footstool, and no part of thy universal creation is without relation to the rest; thou changest the sphere of being of thy creatures, never annihilatest them, and when storms and pestilence hurl man from the earth, thou art beckoning him to lay hold on heaven. Grant grace to thy servant that he may not build his house upon the sand; but that, founded upon a rock, it may be sure and steadfast in the day of visitation.

## CHAPTER V.

From December, 1841, to February, 1842.—Princes' Island.—Madame Ferrera.  
 —St. Thomas's Island.—Island of Rollas.—Annobon Island.—Catholic Church.  
 —Ascension Island.—Governor's Residence.

*Tuesday, 21st December.*—Last night at 9, we cast anchor in West Bay, Princes' Island, and at break of day there presented itself to our view one of the most romantic and grand exhibitions of nature I ever beheld. The sugar-loaf peaks are generally decked with the beauty of tropical vegetation; the evergreens vary their tints and shades with many of the hues of a brilliant rainbow: indeed the impressive effect of this scenery was such as to raise up the soul to nature's God; and in the contemplation of such varied beauties, a lesson of the glory of the great Creator is read to man; and our Saviour's words also appear imprinted on every scene: "If the fields are thus clothed with verdure, and the hills adorned with beauty, how much more will he clothe the children for whom the Kingdom is prepared."

The chief proprietor of this island is a Portuguese lady named Ferrera, who owns many slaves, and her estates produce coffee, cocoa, &c., for which this island is famed.

Our object in calling here is to procure wood and live stock. Already, at 8 A.M., we have a boat alongside loaded with

excellent fuel, which had been prepared in the expectation of our touching here; many of our people are on shore bathing in the refreshing stream, and others in pursuit of game with their fowling-pieces.

*22nd.*—Having received on board a sufficient quantity of wood, we, at 8 A.M., got under weigh, having the honour of Madam Ferrera's company, with some of her household. We proceeded round to Church Bay, where this lady and her attendants were landed, and kindly entertained many of our people. The scene before us presented to the eye, nature in all her luxuriance, aided by the industry of man, and thereby causing the cultivated lands to contribute greatly to the comforts as well as profit of the proprietor. Most European and tropical plants are to be found here. Near the water's edge stands a comfortable mansion, surrounded by the works necessary for preparing the products of the soil for exportation. Coffee constitutes the principle article, and yields to the proprietor as much as 50,000 dollars annually. This lady has about 700 slaves engaged upon her grounds, and, from what I learn, they are not well treated.

The port of this island is named San Antonio; it is five miles distant, and there vessels from various nations are to be seen. Having obtained two bullocks and a supply of vegetables, we, at 7 P.M., got under weigh, and left with regret this very beautiful island.

*Friday 24th.*—At 8 last evening, we anchored off St. Thomas's, another island belonging to the Portuguese. In looking at it from the sea, it presents to the eye scenery which the contemplative mind may deem worthy to compose an earthly paradise; the landscape is rich and luxuriant, being less mountainous than the other islands. The town of Santa Anna de Christi, off which we now lie, extends along the beach in a continuous street of good houses and stores, from which our people were enabled to get supplies of wine, shoes, and cigars. At the end of this street is the fort, a conspicu-

ous object, with its flag waving in the gentle breeze ; three or four small vessels were lying at anchor, between us and the shore. At noon, we got up steam and proceeded on our course towards the Rollas, which is to be seen stretched in a continuous line at no great distance.

25th.—Anchored off the Island of Rollas last evening. It is likewise subject to Portugal, and it evidently appears that, at one time, this and the former island were not separated by any channel. In our progress we passed some very picturesque scenes of rugged cliffs with stately trees, that appeared to attract the electric fluid, for in our passing along the coast we were visited with terrific peals of thunder and lightning, with rain, so that the waters were beheld running down the cliffs, and forming several cascades ; these, together with the wind, seemed to add to the usual rolling of the sea, for which this shore is much noted.

We met here H.M. steam vessel *Philo*, whose commander, Lieut. Blunt, shortly after we arrived, came on board to pay his respects to our Commander. I was extremely sorry to hear of the sickness still raging on board ; they had lost, by fever, the sailing-master Duffle, since we last met ; and eight cases were on their sick list, three of whom we are to take on to Ascension with us.\*

This being Christmas day, we did not forget to have a plum pudding, which tended to recall our distant country and friends to the mind ; but alas we were too apt to lose sight of the momentous event of which this day is the remembrance to all who have heard the Gospel. We had prayers and a sermon read in the morning by our commander and first lieutenant, which was conducted and listened to with great devotion.

28th.—We have all our Kroomen on shore cutting wood ;

\* The clerk in charge, Mr. Haddock, although then in good health, died a few days after, at Fernando Po : likewise one of the three men we took on board the *Albert*.

what has come off is rather of a soft character, not so suitable for fuel; it is all freed of the bark, and split in junks on shore, so that we have little other trouble than to stow it away when it comes alongside. Several of the officers of the *Pluto* have visited us, and they appear in good health; but this climate is so treacherous, we can count but on the present moment: so that literally, men visiting these coasts carry their lives in their hands, and require ever to be on the watch tower, looking out in readiness for the king of terrors.

The *Pluto* is now getting under weigh for Fernando Po.

*Sunday, 2nd January, 1842.*—Yesterday has brought us into a new period of time at this inhospitable place; which naturally leads the mind back to take a review of the past; and surely I have reason to say the divine goodness and mercy have accompanied me all the days of my life, and never in a greater degree was it manifested than in the few bygone months, when pestilence, sickness, and death committed such havoc among us; yet I have been spared in the enjoyment of God's best blessings, health of body and mind, desirous the more to devote myself to His service and glory.

Today we had prayers, morning and evening, conducted by our commander and first lieutenant, in addition to the church service in the forenoon and afternoon, which services were well attended, and listened to with great devotion by all hands. Betwixt the services, a course of instruction was given to our Kroomen, in reading, in which they made considerable progress, many of them occupying their spare time in acquiring useful knowledge. This is indeed a great token for good, for, in their own country, they have generally a decided aversion to instruction, as they say, "the book is not for black man, for black cannot *savez* these things." I trust this may prove as a breaking down of the barriers of gross superstition and ignorance. All our sick are improving, excepting the master-at-arms, who is still in a very critical

state; the general lassitude and prostration of strength under which we all left Fernando Po, is daily giving way to the salubrious climate we are now entering, for, as we proceed to the westward, we find the air cooler and drier.

*Wednesday, 5th January.*—At 6 P.M., we left Rollas Island, and by 4 P.M. of the 6th, came in sight of the Island of Anno Bon. At sunrise on the 7th, we were surrounded by a multitude of canoes, generally containing three men, who had gained a smattering of all languages, but Portuguese is their mother tongue. They endeavoured to sell yams, bananas, pines, &c., for old clothes; but this species of barter came very dear, as they expected a shirt or trousers for such small commodities. The canoes are small, and clumsy in build; the men in general were old, betokening the healthy climate of this island, which is indeed proverbial for health and longevity, and produces all the tropical fruits in great abundance. These natives are under Portuguese rule, and if we may be allowed to judge by the measure of knowledge possessed by their king, or chief, they are all exceedingly ignorant. I was asked by Captain Fishbourne for Portuguese bibles, but I had none. The weather is now very warm: we have crossed the line, and are in  $1^{\circ} 25'$  S. long.

Our Kroomen are now on shore, cutting wood, which is not very abundant here, and we may consequently be detained several days. Anno Bon appears, from deck, to be a beautiful island: the town occupies a considerable extent of ground; at one end of it there stands, prominently, a church, provided with bells, which we hear ringing for matins and vespers, from this church the main street extends, west, a quarter of a mile, and constitutes the chief part of the village. The background rises in heights clad with rich verdure; each house has a small inclosure of ground, containing cocoa-nuts, bananas, maize, &c.

Our crews and officers are now healthy, and improving daily in strength and vigour, by the favourable change of

climate : praised be our God, and I trust our mouths may resound a song of praise, as is surely becoming in those who are partakers of His many mercies.

*Saturday 8th.*—I yesterday went on shore, in company with Mr. Mouat and others. Immediately on our setting foot ashore, we were surrounded by immense numbers of all classes, anxious to gain a sight of us. This proved greatly to the annoyance of Mr. M., whom I in vain endeavoured to appease, by saying that this was their chief mode of welcoming us to their soil. The women and children evinced some little degree of fear when I first endeavoured to speak to them in Spanish, but this impression soon wore off. My first object was to see the church, whither all the group followed us; at the entrance we were desired to wait the Padre's arrival, whose external appearance, however, when he did arrive, bespoke not the sacredness of his office; and his replies, when spoken to of its serious and responsible importance, were not satisfactory. He led us up to the eastern end, where a rude altar was erected, as rudely adorned with some attempts to represent images of departed saints; and this had a greater tendency to disgust the beholder than to bring the contemplative mind into a proper spirit of devotion. I felt my soul rising, in pleading for them, that the glorious light of a purer faith might break forth on their benighted souls; for it is by the introduction of miserable subterfuge, that the Roman Catholic priests impose such gross idolatry upon the *ignorant* as the right worship of the true and living God. Nevertheless the edifice was some evidence of industry in this place, and might well contain three or four hundred; it is a long narrow building with a clay floor, and is well secured from the weather. On the outside is the belfrey, having two or three bells only, a little elevated above the ground, and with anything but a harmonious sound. I made the Padre comprehend most of my observations, and he was surprised to find I knew so much about his duties.



We had almost all the *pueblo* around us on sallying forth, and the number increased as we advanced up the main street, which presented little that was novel to other African villages; but had the addition of many small churches and crosses erected, and which met the eye at every few steps. The heat being excessive, we were glad to obtain occasional shelter under the cocoa-nut trees, with which their garden grounds abound, and from which the people kindly refreshed us, enabling us to partake of the fruit. These provision grounds are much to their credit, being well stocked; and are protected against the invasions of goats and pigs with which this place abounds.

I was struck by the great number of aged people and children, which, as I have already remarked, speaks much in favour of the health of this island, whose population consists of about a thousand persons. I was, however, surprised by applications made to me for lancets, from several individuals, whom I found practised the healing art. Pine-apples are here very plentiful, and of excellent flavour. Having sufficiently satisfied myself with this my first ramble on shore, I was glad to get on board again.

This morning, at 5, having been previously invited, I joined a party consisting of Capt. Fishbourne, Lieut. Strange, Messrs. Fairholme and Roscher, for a walk to the top of the high hill which is behind the town; at the summit of which there is a considerable fresh-water lake. The ascent was through the midst of a rich luxuriance of tamarinds and guavas, although long and fatiguing. We found also a small shrub producing fruit similar in size to a crab apple, and said to possess the qualities of the castor-oil nut, in a greater degree; we likewise met with an indigenous indigo plant. Our road lay over rocks, being rough and narrow; on either side of us were fences, inclosing provision-grounds that produced cassada, maize, &c. As we proceeded, we passed several small chapels and crosses, dedicated to some departed saints.

After being about an hour and a half on the road, we came in sight of the lake ; and, considering its situation, it is a very remarkable sight to find a body of water, about two miles in circumference, at a height of 800 feet above the level of the sea, being beautifully encircled by high trees, principally consisting of palms, with here and there patches of green bananas and long grass interspersed. The thermometer, at 8 A.M., stood in the shade near the margin of the water at 78°, the water of the lake being of 75° temperature.

Having selected a cool and refreshing shade, we bivouacked, and kindled a fire that we made from the dry shrubs around, at which we soon boiled our coffee and cocoa, and what with a cold pie of guinea fowl, anchovies, bread, &c., with whetted up appetites, we relished our *dejeuner a la fourchette* more than if we had dined at one of the best restaurateur's in the Palais Royal. On concluding this repast, we collected our etceteras, in order to return on shipboard ; however, two of our party being desirous of a further excursion round the lake with their fowling-pieces, we parted company ; they to ascend a rock still higher by about 200 feet, and Capt. F. with our first-lieutenant and myself retraced our steps to the village, entering the house of our guide, who, by the bye, was the King or Chief, where we had some excellent green cocoanuts and ripe pines, which were particularly refreshing after our fatigue. We endeavoured to treat with the natives for some stock ; but finding they asked too much for it, we made no purchase, and returned by 11 o'clock, on board ship, very much gratified with our trip. On getting on board we found the ship quite surrounded by the natives, endeavouring to barter, with their old cry, "*Dash* me a shirt or trousers, and me give all these," holding up fruit or bananas in their hands as a temptation.

*January 10th.*—At sun-down we got up our anchor, and commenced our voyage, with steam, for the Isle of Ascension, which I trust will be auspicious, and bring us safely into our

desired haven. We calculate that in three weeks we may be able to set foot again on terra firma. Our stock of fuel being very limited, it is of the utmost consequence that our progress be quick. Some of our officers, anxious to prolong, as much as possible, the pleasures of their stay at Annobon, did not come on board from their shooting excursion until within half an hour of our sailing; one bringing with him a brace of guinea-fowl, and another a number of pigeons.

I was much gratified in observing the sabbath to be greatly respected at this place; not a single canoe came off the whole of the day until the evening, when two conveyed on board some of our liberty men, who had been too late for the ship's boat. We had on board, as usual, the morning and evening prayers, conducted by Capt. Fishbourne and Lieut. Strange, amid much earnest devotion. The seamen's instructor, Mr. Crowder, a black man from Sierra Leone, is an excellent and unassuming character; he takes great pains with the instruction of the Kroomen, in which Capt. F. takes a lively interest; the progress thereby effected is apparent, as several individuals, who previously were totally ignorant of letters, are now able to read and write a little. I trust, therefore, that on their return to their own country, a happy change may be the result. My engagements with the *Soudan's* affairs are, I trust, now drawing nearly to a close, and that the conclusion of this voyage will carry me nearer to my native land, for I am now pretty well tired of being at sea: but under whatever circumstances, I resign myself to God's gracious will.

During the first eight days of the voyage to Ascension, we steamed at the rate of four knots an hour, having delightful weather; as we progress to the westward it becomes daily more cool and agreeable. We have likewise a very pleasant mess, of which Mr. Fairholme is caterer, and I act as his deputy. About the 19<sup>th</sup> of *January*, our fuel began to get very low: from that period, we commenced trusting to our sails and the wind, having then only twenty-four hours' fuel

left. About the 20<sup>th</sup>, the trade wind became very light, not carrying us above two knots an hour; however, it gradually increased till we made out from three to four knots.

28<sup>th</sup>.—We got up steam, which accelerated our progress to seven or eight knots. Altogether the voyage has in every respect been the most pleasant and agreeable I have yet made. For the first eight or ten days, those among us who had had the fever felt considerable lassitude and weakness, accompanied generally with a swelling of the ankles, which increased in the evenings. During the last ten days it has been very cold, and we found warmer clothing very desirable. I am myself as strong and hearty as I ever was, God be praised! but several will require to be invalided; Mr. Bowden, the purser, has been again laid up for the last two days. My anxiety now, about my friends is intense; I trust there are letters on shore waiting for me; and that I may ever be guided to that way the Lord will prosper.

Off the Isle of Ascension, 28<sup>th</sup> January.—This island appears in sight, where I expect we shall shortly be at anchor. Having been eighteen days out of sight of land, it excites emotions of joy and gratitude to behold it again, even though it were a barren waste; and the land before us does not, from its present appearance, promise much. However, I trust that on landing we may be agreeably disappointed, and I experienced that God has before caused the barren wilderness to be productive, by raising up friends in places where I least expected them, and here he has sent before me B——, who is governor of the island, whom with his amiable partner Mrs. B., are old friends, and I indulge pleasing anticipations in meeting them.

1<sup>st</sup>. February.—At Ascension. As yet I have not been on shore; we lie about a mile off, from which distance it looks by no means very enticing: although mountainous, its hills appear quite divested of vegetation of every description. In the distance, about eight miles off, there is a mount exhibit-

ing some little verdure, called the Green Mount, where most visitors resort. The upland district is famed for the salubrity of its climate, being very cool and refreshing; subject to heavy dews and occasional showers, which the fort and low grounds are exempt from. Most of the vegetables and fruits of both zones are produced in considerable perfection, and those living below at the fort are entirely dependent upon the exertions of their elevated brethren on the mount, for the comforts of milk, fresh butter, bananas, sweet potatoes, fresh meat, &c.; and even for their supply of fresh water, which is led down to the coast by pipes, the distance of seven or eight miles, and retained in large reservoirs, from whence it is distributed in barrels daily to the garrison, as if on board ship; for the people in this place are rationed in beef, pork, biscuit and spirits. No person is allowed to remain on the island without the sanction of the Governor, who is usually a captain of marines, and is subject to the orders of the naval commander on this station.

As our vessel is about undergoing a thorough cleaning, most of us are going on shore to live; indeed part of the mess are already landed, and the rest are about following. I do not anticipate much pleasure there, but it is needful, in many respects, to recruit our health and strength after our African exhaustion.

How mysterious are the decrees of God's providences with the children of men; who can search them out? Only a few days since, I was contemplating the meeting on shore two old friends in the persons of the governor and his lady; but, alas! only three weeks ago, the cold hand of death has laid the former low, though a moment before in the possession of his usual good health. His death occurred thus awfully sudden whilst in the act of reading to his wife after dinner, he was seized with a fit of apoplexy and immediately expired, leaving a disconsolate widow in a foreign land, without any dear friend to whom she could unburthen her sorrow; however, an

opportunity offering of returning to Europe, she has left the island. Thus have I been deprived of seeing her also, her departure having taken place ten days before my arrival.

At 3 P.M., I landed, through a considerable surf which is peculiar to this island, but more particularly so at some seasons of the year, at which times it is difficult to effect a landing. The pier is hewn out of the rocks, up which we ascend by steps; and, in order to avoid a ducking, it is needful to wait a lull of the sea to gain an opportunity of springing on to the firm rock through the assistance of a rope attached to a crane on the top. On landing, all appeared to the sight as a barren waste (in point of vegetation), but at every step we were met by the result of man's labour. A fine pier, with an extensive tank for the watering of the shipping, constructed on the most approved principles. A commodious arsenal, provision stores, smithy, &c., and a square of neat small buildings which the marines with their wives and families occupy: at the door of each is generally to be found the industrious wife washing clothes, in which occupation she excels, and gains a good addition to her husbands' earnings, as many ships touch here on their homeward voyage, for a few days, to refit.

*2nd February.*—I arose this morning, perfectly refreshed, although I had only a *shake down*, and not in the most comfortable place; yet the being free from the late rocking of the ship, gave additional comfort to the silence of the night; and I sallied forth in the direction of "The Cottage," the Governor's house, situated about one-third up a steep hill, at the top of which the signal-staff is planted. The walk was very uncomfortable, as the soil, resembling in some degree that of volcanic ashes, fills the shoes at every step. The house is approached, when on foot, by a flight of steps; at the first entrance are the stables and yard, over which is a pigeon-house, &c.

On arriving at the house, I found it to consist of a long

narrow wooden building, and but one story in height. All around appeared as silent as the grave; as for vegetable life, there appeared none, there being only two parched trees, a prickly pear bush, and two or three pine plants which once had existence, but whose life, like that of their late proprietor, had now departed. The walls of the inclosure had a few port-holes, in which were two or three guns; these, with a small signal-staff and a sun-dial, appeared to be all the appurtenances left of governorship.

From this site the view of the sea, garrison and buildings, are very imposing, and as it was well sheltered behind from the scorching sun, I found it deliciously cool.

All in the island are under government employ, and in number are about 200 souls, and, as before mentioned, are as to rules and regulations like a ship's crew on shore. One great oversight on the part of the government is that there is no chaplain or school instructor. The commander, however, generally has the people assembled on the sabbath mornings, to hear prayers read. The white men appear very healthy, and are fully employed from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M., at their various crafts, having two hours to themselves during the heat of the day. Their wives and children also appear very healthy. There are a few Kroomen who live here, and assist in the various works and buildings. Dollars and rupees are current, the former at 4s. 4d., and the latter 1s. 11d. to 2s., as well as English coin.

## CHAPTER VI.

From February to March.—Burial Ground at Ascension.—Tidings from England.  
 —Dangerous Landing Place.—Abundance of Turtle.—Mode of Capture.—  
 Scarcity of Vegetation.—Want of Spring Water.—Importing a Wife.

*7th February.*—A bark sailed this evening for England, by which I sent eight letters home to my friends. Have been busily engaged in preparing ship's papers to go home by the above.

The weather here continues cool and comfortable, and thanks to a gracious God, I enjoy health without interruption.

A great number of reports are freely circulated as to our subsequent movements, but, as nothing definitive has been determined, and the total absence of instructions from headquarters, place those in command in very trying circumstances; but I trust all may be directed to that end which may ultimately prove for the good of our fellow-creatures, and God's glory.

In the absence of Capt. Trotter, Capt. Allen is superior officer in command; his officers (with a few exceptions) are desirous of resuming their labours in the Niger. The *Wilberforce* is now got into beautiful order; Lieut. T. has been appointed senior lieutenant: I have not yet been on board, but they are all well. I have had no tidings of my friends



yet, which has caused me considerable pain; but I leave them with confidence in the hands of Him who ordereth all things aright. But from my anxiety for them not an opportunity escapes my pen, from which they will find that, although separated by the vast ocean, I have not forgotten them; and I know that I am remembered by them in the only available quarter.

11th.—Yesterday a bark arrived with coals for the expedition, latterly from Fernando Po, but brought no letters, having left all at that port. Her latest news from home reaches only down to September. She brings us intelligence of the death of Mr. Haddock, of H.M.S. *Pluto*, with whom I had intercourse at the end of December last, off Rollas. His death was very sudden, attributable to apoplexy, and he, I fear, little anticipated the event. How many are the warnings we receive; reminding us ever to be on the watch; but alas! how frequently do we allow these warnings to harden, instead of turning the heart to God.

This morning I visited the burial ground; it is a neat enclosure, and is situate about a quarter of a mile from the town and hospital, in the midst of dry arid sand and rock. A tolerable road is made to it, and is encompassed with a good wall, whitewashed, which gives it a striking appearance. A few stunted pine plants are set on some of the graves, but they do not thrive. One side is appropriated for the private marines, and is well studded with tombstones erected at the expense of their comrades, which appeared by their inscriptions almost wholly to have reference to the deceased's standing among his fellow men, as if this passing life was all in all.

In the ground lie interred two governors, viz. Capt. Tinkler, in 1840, and Capt. Bennett, in 1842. I saw a stone and pillar erected to commemorate the late governor, but as yet no inscription appears. I was much pleased to find by the inscription raised to the memory of the former governor, that he sought the best interests of the rising generation.

A bark from China touched here to-day, by which Lieut. T. returns to Europe, as it was thought his constitution would not be again able to contend with the coast of Africa.

14th.—Yesterday H.M. steam vessel *Vixen* arrived from Woolwich direct. She brings newspapers to 12th ultimo, and the “African Friend” till the 1st ditto. At the period of her leaving England, the government were in possession of the fact of the disasters of the expedition, which appears to have excited great interest and sympathy in the public mind for our recall, but no despatches are received. I trust the many prayers may be answered with a blessing, in directions from home and wisdom here in executing whatever may be determined upon: that we may go forth in the strength of the Lord, and prove valiant in executing His will, whatever He may ordain.

Yesterday (being Sunday) I spent on board the *Albert*, dining with the Captain, &c. In the afternoon the Rev. Mr. Müller, our chaplain, delivered to us a short address. In the evening had some difficulty in landing, owing to the periodical return of the *rollers*, just commencing, which, when at their height, render it dangerous to attempt a landing. The foam was lashing the rocks and pier in awful grandeur, requiring us to watch a favourable lull betwixt the billows, which succeed each other every four or five minutes; the sailors only holding on for the moment, while the passengers lay hold of a rope swinging from a crane at the top of the pier; and oftentimes for a few minutes they are left swinging betwixt heaven and the raging surf, before an opportunity arrives of being enabled to spring on to the steps that are cut in the solid rock. The necessity of landing in this manner continues sometimes for eight or ten days.

We find by our late advices that our gracious queen has presented the nation with a prince of Wales, whom I trust may be long spared, prove a blessing to the nation, and a comfort and stay to the royal pair.

28th.—Scarcely a day passes but we observe vessels in the offing, passing, as they generally do, on their homeward voyage, seldom coming to anchor at this place, except in great necessity, or only to be supplied with water and turtles. The quantity of the latter taken here during the season is very great. At present they often turn twenty or thirty of a night along the coast, weighing from five to seven hundred weight each. At this period, the females land to lay their eggs on the fine sandy beach (for which this island is celebrated). The marines are stationed at places, where they are known to deposit their eggs, and on their return from so doing (for which purpose they will sometimes travel in shore two or three hundred yards), two or three men seize them by their flappers, and turn them on their backs; to perform this feat requires some adroitness, but as their strength is somewhat exhausted, their capture is rendered more easy. In the morning the men signal the place and the number taken, which is telegraphed to the town, by this they know where to send for them, which is done by either boat or dray. On being taken to the town they are put into reservoirs, wherein the sea, during the roller season, refreshes the water by the spray breaking into it. It is only the females that are thus captured. The eggs and flesh are not generally relished, although once or twice a week we were rationed by them. The soup made from them is the most palatable.

Many of our officers went frequently to the Mount, generally walking. I would willingly have gone sometimes, but it was difficult to obtain accommodation and eatables, the latter requiring to be sent from the coast; and being permitted only to *look* upon the fruits, it was very tantalizing to be obliged to withhold the hand from grasping, and refreshing the palate by tasting.

Whilst on shore I occasionally took long walks towards the Mount, as well as in other directions, but in no instance have I seen vegetation of any kind, not even a blade of grass;

but at intervals might fall in with a plant of the castor nut, or prickly pear. The roads, for their kind, are tolerably good. A waggon drawn by four donkeys comes down daily with the milk, and a little grass, for the use of three or four horses kept in town, the latter animals are, however, principally supported by hay and corn from England.

The buildings for the officers and other officials are very neat erections, one story in height, and are built of brick, which is plastered and whitewashed, and is surrounded by balconies supported on pillars, which gives them a very pleasing effect. The island is generally very healthy, but is visited, occasionally, by an epidemic fever, which occurs every sixth or seventh year. The dysentery sometimes makes its appearance, which at this time attacked some of our people; this complaint may be, perhaps, attributable to the constant use of rain water, there being no other to be had. Great strictness is observed at the pier, to prevent spirits being smuggled into the colony.

Another vessel has arrived with coals and provisions for the expedition, and it is said the *Wilberforce* will sail in a few days for the island of Fernando Po and the Niger, and I have received intimation that it would be expected I should accompany them.

A curious circumstance occurred a few days since. One of the freight vessels from England, on arriving, brought an *intended* wife for one of the marines. The man being a widower, wrote home to two females of his acquaintance, offering his hand in marriage, and the one who decided in his favour should be sent out to him by government; one of them accordingly arrived, and the morning after her arrival, they were, without further delay by *courtship*, married by our chaplain. There was a merry-making on the occasion, and we gave up to the festive party the quarters which we had on shore, for the evening, and their rejoicing was kept

up with great spirit, till a late hour. I trust this singular match may prove congenial to both the bride and bridegroom, and to the colony at large. The man, besides being a marine, follows his trade of a painter, from which he derives considerable means.

## CHAPTER VII.

From March to April.—The Madagascar.—Arrival at Cape Coast Castle.—The Governor.—Missionary Station and School.—Rev. Mr. Freeman.—Merchant's Houses.—Trade.—The Soil.—British Accra.—A Danish Settlement.

Off the Isle of Ascension, *8th March*.—This day I have joined my old ship the *Wilberforce*, and on the *10th* we sailed, at 7 in the evening, with full steam, having previously received the parting blessing of the chaplain, and bade adieu to the officers and crew of the *Albert*. Our parting was enlivened by three hearty cheers from the whole ship's company, which we returned with equal ardour. It may be a sorrowful separation to many of us, but with the Almighty alone are the issues of life and death.

We are making good way with our sails, together with steam, sailing at the rate of six knots per hour, although a very heavy sea impedes our progress.

*14th*.—We continue our course prosperously, steering about north. To-day we are in  $1^{\circ}$  S. latitude. All our mess dined with Capt. Allen, Commissioner Cook, and Capt. Ellis, whose society added much to our comfort; as we approach to the N.E. the air becomes very much warmer, accompanied with the usual moisture peculiar to this part of the coast of Africa; being now nearly under the line we feel the rays of the sun very much, and expect to make out the land in a few days.

At this point we have stopped several hours, in order to sound and make observations of the temperature, &c., as former voyagers have alluded to having witnessed the appearance of something like *rocks* or *land*; but as we are traversing the very latitude and longitude, and can see nothing of it, we must set it down as a Cape Flyaway.

We arrived off Cape Coast Castle at sun-set of the 20th March, in company with H.M.S. *Madagascar*, Capt. Foot, the commodore of the station, who informed us that letters had gone on for the Niger expedition to the Isle of Ascension; thus we have been tantalized by rumours of instructions for us floating about, without the possibility of receiving them.

Cape Coast Castle, 21st March.—Here we have again arrived, but under very different circumstances than when we visited this place in July last, having then the same object in view, but now knowing, by sad experience, the destructiveness of the climate, and the little prospect we have of attaining the grand object of our expedition. We are now in a crippled state, both as regards power and energy a solitary ship. These feelings cast a general gloom and despondency over the mind, which is increased by the want of information from head-quarters. The cry of humanity is loud to us to visit the model farm, as we were instrumental in leaving many at that spot, of whose safety we have not had the slightest intelligence. I know many who are inspired with the anxious desire of administering to their relief; and if their services are accepted, I trust the blessing of heaven may come down upon their labour of love.

Last night the *Madagascar* fired a salute, which was returned by the fort on shore, when our captain went on board to pay his respects to the officer in command.

The *Wilberforce* is kept in beautiful order by Lieut. Webb, in respect of cleansing, &c., and the crew are in excellent health and spirits.

The heat is very oppressive here; we found it daily increasing as we approached the coast. Having had a plentiful supply of fuel, our steam generally was fully up, and enabled us to make, upon the average, five and three-quarters to six knots per hour.

27th.—Since we made this coast, there have been nearly every alternate day, arrivals and departures, which relieve somewhat the monotony of our life at sea, and with every new sail we were buoyed up with the hopes of receiving letters, but have hitherto been disappointed. May these disappointments work in us the fruits of righteousness and patience.

The heat on board is excessive, almost throwing us into a fever, no shelter being found from the scorching sun. On shore it is different, there being always a cool breeze and shelter.

I intended to have gone on shore this afternoon, to hear the Rev. Mr. Freeman, a missionary of the Wesleyan connection, but was invited to dine with the captain at half-past three, to meet the governor Capt. McLean, Mr. Smith, and Mr. B——, a gentleman of colour from Annamaboe, and three others from the gun-room. We spent the afternoon agreeably. The governor is from Elgin, and retains the northern accent: he possesses a considerable fund of humour and anecdote, and a store of general information, combined with much talent.

28th.—There being some talk of our shortly sailing from this place, I went on shore to pay the Rev. Mr. Freeman a visit. I found him busily engaged in making up boxes of natural curiosities, to be sent home by the *Governor McLean*, a ship on the eve of sailing. He showed me native jewellery consisting of gold chains, rings, and other trinkets, together with specimens of cloth, some composed of silk and others of cotton fabric. The whole of these are intended for the missionary museum in London. I also visited a school for girls, which was held in his house. The scholars consisted of fifty-



eight, of ages varying from six to thirteen years ; and were employed in reading, writing, and working samplers (the latter being intended to accompany the natural curiosities). I was delighted at the proficiency with which they read a chapter in the Gospel of St. John. I asked a few questions upon it, which were satisfactorily answered. Some of the children had been three or four years under instruction, and, in general, were found very quick in apprehension. A young woman of colour has the superintendence of the school, to whose instrumentality they are much indebted for the proficiency they have attained in useful knowledge.

In the town without the fort there is a small but neat chapel belonging to the mission, attended by a congregation of two or three hundred ; the Rev. Mr. Freeman has several assistants, as the ground he occupies in his ministerial labours is very extensive, extending along the coast to Annamaboe, where there is a station, and likewise into the interior, a distance of about 150 miles, to Komassie (the chief town of the Ashantee country), where the mission have likewise planted the banner of the cross in the midst of superstition, gross idolatry, and human sacrifices ! At Komassie the two Ashantee princes who were brought out in July last by our expedition, are now under the protection of the mission. The princes, through the agency of the missionaries, are becoming more useful to their countrymen, as from their knowledge of the language, they open up an easier way of access to their benighted countrymen.

On the coast the natives pay great homage to the crocodile. One was kept to a great age in an extensive pond, at Annamaboe ; it was visited by a great number of foreigners ; it had become so tame, that it would approach to the edge of the water to be fed. Every visitor was advised to carry with him a fowl, as a peace-offering to the monster. A few years ago, however, he became so troublesome to the neighbourhood, that the governor sent orders to kill him.

I regretted much I saw so little of Mr. Freeman ; since our expedition touched here he has had the misfortune to lose his amiable partner, which is a severe stroke. With his clerical duties, he combines the study of nature and mechanics, through a knowledge of which he gets access, in the first instance, to the dark and unenlightened minds of the natives, by engaging their industry, and is thus enabled to drop in a seed of the word of life in a way which, perhaps, otherwise would not be so easily attained.

Mr. F.'s constitution seems to be of a character well suited to this country ; when he first planted the cross at Komasi, it was attended with considerable personal peril and danger.

In the town of Cape Coast there are six or eight mercantile establishments mostly connected with London. They barter manufactured goods for gold dust, ivory, Indian corn, ground nuts, camwood, &c., with the people in the interior. They are called to make many journeys in order to make sales. A small import duty is levied, but export is free. The houses of the merchants are very comfortable, and generally are of two stories in height : the town being erected on a rising hill, affords airy situations, of which the merchants avail themselves ; the houses are generally built of mud, similar to the cob walls in Devonshire. They have but one water course, which is filthy and dirty ; and is only replenished by the rains upon which they are altogether dependent for supplies. The fort has a very spacious tank, from which the shipping is supplied, on payment of a trifle as boat hire.

American and French vessels also come to the coast to trade, which they do, to a considerable extent, bringing wines, spirits, provisions, &c.

The fort commands the sea, so that the town lies behind ; within the fort, there is a school for boys. On Sundays, the governor reads prayers, and sometimes a sermon of his own composition, which is said to be orthodox.

The journey from the coast to Komassie, although only about 150 miles, can be performed only at certain seasons. The road is very mountainous, and travellers are obliged to be carried in a hammock, or sometimes dragged by the natives in a kind of small phaeton. Travelling is thus rendered so difficult, that the expence of the journey costs a very considerable sum.

The soil is good, and capable of producing most of the tropical fruits and vegetables. Mr. Swansey owns a considerable tract of land on the coast, towards the Dutch fort of Elmina, on which he had commenced planting coffee, sugar cane, cocoa, &c., with considerable success, but his present difficulties has put a stop to its progress. The Rev. Mr. Freeman is now in treaty for the estate, on behalf of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, in order that he may be enabled to direct and dispose his people's minds to habits of industry, for I believe here, as well as at Sierra Leone, the want of energy and capital, directed in this manner, is the cause of the want of prosperity at both colonies.

Dined with Mr. Smith in company with our geologist, and the missionary from Annamaboe, the latter appeared rather sickly, but was evidently a good man. He confirmed what I had heard of their progress, which is very cheering.

The governor sends off to the ship excellent carcasses of beef; the flesh, both of the sheep and goats bred here, is good. Attached to almost every house sheep and goats are to be found in good condition.

29th.—At sun down we proceeded on our voyage to British Accra, with a fine breeze, and full steam, the distance being only 70 miles, we expect to arrive there early in the morning of to-morrow.

30th.—At British Accra. We are lying anchored about two miles off, having in sight three forts, viz., that of British Accra, one belonging to the Dutch, the other to the Danish

governments; which are at a short distance from each other. Their whited walls and the respective national colours, floating in the breeze have a pleasing effect.

The captain, accompanied by several of our people, have gone on shore. I was too late to join them. We purpose again sailing this evening for Fernando Po, where I trust the blessing of God will guide and sustain us.

We met H.M.S. *Rapid* lately arrived from Europe, which brought news to the end of January, at which time Capt. Trotter had arrived home. This vessel being in search of the senior in command on this station has again sailed. She has several supernumerary officers on board to fill up the vacancies, that have occurred by sickness and death.

At sun down, our officers returned on board, completely drenched. The surf was so great that they found the greatest difficulty in landing and embarking. Our purser has brought off a bullock which lying at the bottom of the boat, was almost drowned. Several of our officers purchased beautiful gold chains of native manufacture, the prices of which, were in some instances, as high, as 7*l.* to 10*l.* sterling. There are two or three English mercantile houses on shore, but the traffic is very limited. Ivory, gold dust, &c., being their principal exports.

*April 1st.*—Anchored off “Wynda river” and “Popa” a Danish settlement, where we met H.M.Ss. *Rapid*, *Benita* and *Termagant*, the latter for England, by which I sent letters. In the evening we got under weigh for our ultimate destination. Seldom a night passes without having a tornado, accompanied with rain, which tends to cool the air very much.

*3rd.*—(Sunday). After muster, we had just commenced prayers, when the threatening appearance of the clouds caused all hands to be piped down. During the whole day, we had more or less rain, which compelled us to seek shelter below, the great heat caused thereby made us very uncom-

fortable, and rendered the mind ill suited for the solemn engagement of this day.

4th.—Since sunrise, we have been in sight of land. At 9 A.M. we were off a considerable branch of the river Niger (at which we had anchored on our previous voyage, and were in doubt as to its being the *Nun* branch), but, as on the former occasion, we shortly discovered the *Nun* point a-head of us. At 2 o'clock we were abreast of the entrance of that ill-fated river, the sight and remembrance of which did draw forth lively gratitude that I and many of my companions had escaped from the deadly effects of its malaria.

We continue on our course to Fernando Po, where we expect to arrive on Wednesday, and as it is the place which holds the dust of so many of our valued companions, may it awaken in us, a lively interest for our own, and the spiritual welfare of our surviving crew.

## CHAPTER VIII.

From April to May.—Clarence Cove.—Arrival of the Driver.—Coast of Bimbia.  
—Amboyces' Islands.—Shark's River.—North-West Bay.—The Peruviana.—  
The Cameroon River.

*April 7th.*—We have just arrived at the island of Fernando Po, and taken up our position in Clarence Cove, near to the *Soudan*, which we left laid up in ordinary, having a roof composed of thatch in order to save her deck from the scorching rays of the sun.

During my absence I find Dr. Prince and the Rev. Mr. Clarke have left for England. However they are replaced by the arrival of a missionary and his wife, of the name of Sturgeon, from London.

*April 10th.*—(Sunday). As usual we had muster, the captain read the church service with a sermon. In the afternoon I went on shore to attend divine worship at the missionary's. He delivered a simple address to an attentive congregation. His prayers were fervent and the psalmody cheering. The number of hearers have considerably increased, the place not being able to contain all, for I observed several sitting round the outside of the doors. His lady I found to be an excellent helpmate, and her manners very prepossessing. There are now 13 baptized members, and nearly 200 hearers. Mr. S. and his wife speak highly of the

great zeal and indefatigability of their predecessors, whose removal was somewhat sudden ; but the people have an idea they may soon return again. There appears a considerable spirit of inquiry and desire for religious instruction, amongst the people ; and it is a matter of regret, that additional missions are not planted here, there being a good opening both for the Church establishment and Wesleyans, as many are settled here from Sierra Leone, of both connections. I trust that a blessing may flow down upon their labours here, in the cause of the Redeemer.

19th.—To-day arrived H.M.S. vessel *Driver*, in about thirty days from Plymouth, destined for China. She brings newspapers to 16th *March*, at which time it was said in the House of Commons, that it was not the intention of the government to renew the expedition up the Niger, but that at some subsequent period, it may be tried by a vessel manned with natives, accustomed to the climate, I trust we may soon have our orders to return home ; I feel there will be few of the expedition who will not rejoice at their recal. This day, the thermometer stands at 88°.

As we lie very close in the bay, in order to careen, it is excessively hot, being pent up, with little current of air, but this being now accomplished, we have drawn further out, where we feel the good effect of the breeze.

There are at present only three or four sick on board, none of their cases are of a serious character ; and I hope will soon pass away. We are a rebellious people and receive greater mercies, at the hands of our heavenly Father than we deserve.

*Friday, 22nd.*—We continue almost daily to have tornados of wind accompanied with heavy rain, which last for two or three hours, they tend much to purify the atmosphere from electricity, with which at this season it appears heavily charged ; yesterday H.M.S. *Driver* sailed for China, her object in visiting this island was to obtain coals and stores.

Report is active that we are to sail this evening on a cruise to survey and return in a few days for our companion the *Soudan*, when it is expected she will be in readiness to join us.

Two days ago, the *Rapid* from a cruise anchored here for twenty-four hours, and again sailed for her cruising ground.

We continue in excellent health, but this climate requires us to be kept moving about to maintain that blessing.

*Saturday, 23rd.*—Last evening, at 8, we got up steam and started from this place at half-past nine, working only one boiler, and crossed over to the African coast called Bimbia, off which we came to anchor at 8 A.M. of this day; the country as far as the eye can scan, is rich in vegetation, but as yet we have seen none of the inhabitants. Our boat with some officers has just gone on shore to ascertain whether we can procure stock and provisions, and by their report we shall be guided in our subsequent movements. At noon we got up anchor, and proceeded in our course to the Cameroons. Our officers had intercourse with the king (who, it would appear, receives an annuity from our government to set aside the awful traffic in slaves). His majesty, with his people, were very kind; but their prices for cattle, say those to weigh 100lb. to 130lb. being thirty dollars, was so extravagant, that they came off without purchasing any.

The country we are now passing along is rich in wood and pasture, with high land, and many islands appear; at 5 P.M. we came to anchor in the midst of a group of these called the Amboyces, presenting four different points, the island of Fernando Po in the distance, say about thirty miles off. Here it is very cool, the wind passing through the varied openings, proves very refreshing. One island appears completely studded over with small huts (resembling the approach at Cape Palmas, as formerly described); these islands are generally inhabited, and the people are principally engaged in fishing and bartering the fish with the natives on the main land



for their products : though, they themselves rear a few goats, sheep, pigs, and likewise cultivate bananas, plantains, maize, &c. ; they appear a simple-minded people, very dilatory, but as keen in making a bargain as most of the African race. Tobacco, handkerchiefs, &c., are articles they prize much.

*Sunday, 24th.*—Had muster and prayers as usual ; the day was moderately warm, and the scenery around of a pleasing character, all being clad in nature's rich garb, without the aid of man, leading the contemplative mind up to nature's God, with whom all blessing resteth in store for the petition of faith. In my present situation and engagements, greater opportunities are afforded me of communing with my God, and in these seasons I find He is very near to me.

*Fernando Po, Wednesday, 27th.*—This morning, at 7, has again brought us to anchor in Clarence Cove, alongside of the *Soudan*, the only vessel in port : was sorry to learn her commander and several of the crew were sick, but the sickness was not of a serious character.

At noon we again got up anchor, and run over to our former position at the Amboyces, sailing near the islands, which on close inspection, appear to be complete rocks, evidently at one time connected with the main land, and now only separated by a very narrow channel, and anchored near to the largest of the group, which exhibited a lively scene, the whole population being assembled on the brow of the rock to see us ; immediately they got a canoe launched, and their chief was seen hurrying down the rock, having an umbrella over his head, bringing with him, for our captain, goats, pigs, &c., as a *dash*. Our commander intended to return the visit, but a tornado coming on, prevented its being carried into execution, and obliged us, at 9 P.M., to get up anchor and leave this place for Clarence Cove ; as the distance is not great we only had one boiler at work, this, with a heavy sea, occasioned more rolling than was agreeable. The people here talk the Bimbria or Cameroon dialect, and from a considerable

intercourse they have had with the English traders, I fear they have imbibed much of an unprofitable character which was exhibited in their outward deportment: the men are very strikingly marked on the breast, as if by the process of cupping, they generally had 18 to 20 probes which is peculiar to the island or district they came from. On the whole our cruise was agreeable, affording a pleasant variety to our usual monotony.

*Saturday, 30th April.*—At 7 P.M. again we have up anchor and are sailing round Buller's Point, at 9 came to anchor off Shark's River, a small settlement formed by R. Jamieson, Esq., of Liverpool. We found lying at anchor H.M.S vessel *Soudan*, the *Ethiope* steamer, and a merchant ship, the two latter belonging to the above gentleman.

*Sunday, 1st May.*—After divisions at noon, we got up steam and are now running on to North-west Bay where at 4 P.M. we anchored, close in shore near to some huts which were planted close to the water's edge. The back ground exhibited scenery of a beautiful description rising up to a majestic height, the base being well cleared from the bush and yielding a rich produce to the cultivator in yams, maize, and plantains, (for which this district is famed.) A few of the inhabitants, (Bubys) came off to visit us, I was shocked to observe one elderly man (represented as a chief) having both his hands chopped off close by the wrists; upon inquiry I found this punishment was inflicted in consequence of his unchaste conduct towards the wife of one of the people.

Here we found the Peruviana, a merchant ship about starting for Liverpool, by this opportunity we forwarded letters to England.

On *Tuesday, 3rd May*, at 4 A.M. we got up anchor and run for Clarence Cove, where we arrived at 10, and finding the *Soudan* ready to accompany us we proceeded on towards Bimbia river, where our consort soon followed us,

and at 5 P.M. came to anchor nearly at the same place as on our former trip.

Off the Cameroons, 4th.—Since our arrival here we find the air cooler which tended to free us of our little tormentors the musquitos. At 2 P.M. we started taking a southerly course along the coast, and brought up off the Cameroon river at sun down. Prior to our leaving our last anchorage, the king of Bimbia sent us a fine bullock weighing about 80lbs, also we had along side of our ship beautiful fat goats weighing from 50 to 60 lbs; the sheep are small with very long legs generally of a brown and black colour, their flesh is delicious; we saw specimens of the industry of the people in wooden bowls, small canoes, &c.; they likewise offered us plenty of plantains and bananas which they brought for sale. In return for these they received empty bottles, which are much valued by them, and report says, that with 100 of these they can purchase a slave in the interior. The appearance of the land we have passed to-day is low, flat, and marshy.

## CHAPTER IX.

May. — King Bell's Town. — Number of Wives. — King's favourite Wife. — Wrestling Matches. — State Visit from the King. — King Aqua. — The Camaroon Mountain. — Youngay. — The Town of Bimbia. — The King's Residence. — Native Huts. — Superstitious Practices.

*Thursday, 5th May.* — At 5 A.M. we proceeded up the Cameroon river and anchored at 9, off King Bell's Town which is about 30 miles up, where we found several merchant vessels taking in cargoes of palm oil, we saw many canoes on the river which at this place is nearly five miles broad, and the water is brackish.

Two kings claim the sovereignty of this country, viz., king Bell, and king Aqua, the former is said to have 50 wives, and the latter 200; their riches appear somewhat to consist in the number of these, as is the case with most of the African chiefs.

A fine breeze sets up the river, generally commencing at 9 A.M., and continues until sun down, refreshing the atmosphere, which otherwise to Europeans would be insupportable, during the night there being no breeze, much is added to our discomfort by the return of the musquitos.

King Bell's Town is large and regularly built, the walls being formed of wattled bamboo covered over with clay, the foundation of the floor being elevated a few feet so as to protect it against the overflowing of the river; the streets are wide

and regularly formed. The house of royalty is large and airy, with tolerable good furniture of British manufacture, consisting of mirrors, chandeliers, sofas, &c., the chairs and chests appearing from their rude construction to be of their own country make.

The king speaks very good English, and received some of our people very kindly, presenting them with rum, brandy, &c.; his favorite wife was then sweeping the royal residence equipped in her native dress, which with the addition of the usual waist cloth, she wore spangled leggins which by no means improved the appearance of her person, the king could not be distinguished from his subjects, but by his sporting an English beaver hat.

Occasionally the natives have wrestling matches with their adjoining tribes, in which great good humour prevails, each contending party is arranged in a line on the main street, (having their bodies anointed with oil), each eyeing his antagonist with earnestness, and in the warmth of the contest taking up sand in their hands so as to enable them to retain the grasp more securely, in this way they amuse themselves for several hours; judges are present to award prizes, and to see that fair play may be given, and it very seldom occurs that any thing unpleasant arises out of these innocent frolics.

As the king had just received presents by H.M.S. *Rapid* from our gracious queen, he with great pride set them forth, they consisted of a general's scarlet uniform coat, cap, &c., with which he was highly delighted.

*Friday, 6th May.*—Our captain paid a morning visit to the king, and at half-past nine his majesty came on board the *Wilberforce* (accompanied by his suite), rigged out in the presents above mentioned; but as the necessity had been overlooked of dress for the lower parts of the body (in the above presents), the absence of trowsers and shoes made royalty appear somewhat ludicrous. His favorite wife accom-

panied him, but her ornamented legs and adorned head and neck dresses exhibited little to please the taste of the European. The suite were numerous stout active young men; their adornment was that of disfiguring nature's perfect work by tattooing, marking, and pricking their faces, arms and breasts with rude incisions; they had all a smattering of English, and when asked the number of the king's subjects, the answer was, "Me no can count them, there be so many;" if we may judge from the appearance of the inhabitants, the climate is healthy, but it has proved a grave to many a European.

At noon we got up steam and are proceeding up the river, taking with us his majesty and Capt. Lilley, as our pilots; we proceeded fully twelve miles, till our course became so intricate, and the river so narrow, that it was with difficulty we could get our ship's head turned down the stream; the river itself on its banks, presented little novelty to us, as they appeared of a similar description to those of the Niger, being low, swampy, and edged by the destructive mangroves, rising in many instances from the midst of the river; we saw no villages, neither canoes; it was needful to have our leads sounding the whole way. On our descent we approached the shore, about one mile higher up than Bell's Town, where we discovered King Aqua's Town, planted on the top of a beautiful rising ground, enriched by the great luxuriance of the plantain, maize, &c., with its gazing inhabitants standing at the doors of their huts, doubtless their minds filled with admiring wonder at the novel spectacle of a fire ship so near their lonely dwellings; they cheered us as we passed, which we silently returned by wishing them every blessing, both for time and eternity. At 4 P.M. we were safely anchored at our former position, off King Bell's Town, being much gratified by our cruise. Towards evening the wind freshened very much, accompanied with rain, thunder, and lightning, but at midnight subsided to a calm.

*7th.*—At sunrise not a breath of wind, but at 8 the breeze blew up the river with its usual regularity. The natives press to get on board, and are very annoying, by their covetous disposition for *dashes*.

At noon Capt. Allen caused the galley to be manned and armed, and he, with several of the scientific gentlemen, proceeded up the river, accompanied by king Bell in his war canoe, containing thirty of his warriors. They expect to be absent two or three days. I trust God's arm may be around them, and bring them back in safety.

I understand the tide where we now lie affects the rise and fall of the river to the extent of eight or nine feet, but at extra tides it is influenced thereby to the extent of three or four feet additional.

*Sunday 18th.*—In the absence of our commander, the purser read the church service, which was listened to with great devotion; our numbers are somewhat lessened by the party now up the river.

I dined with the doctor and his mess, and spent a very agreeable afternoon.

*9th May.*—This morning our first lieutenant had an early visit from king Aqua, accompanied by a suite of about 50 attendants. His majesty was dressed in all the splendour of King Bell, but appears a more dignified character, and further advanced in years and experience. He claims the superiority over King Bell.

He expressed a wish to receive many things from England, for which he said he would pay as became a king. Amongst his requests was that a man of God might be sent to instruct his people in the white man's religion. In conversation he acknowledges one supreme God, to whom he daily renders thanks, and respects the sabbath by refraining from work. They appear to have some remnant of the Mosaic law, when they make a vow it is ratified externally by shaving a portion of their heads.

We found this royal personage with his people equally covetous as their neighbours, his Majesty actually desiring an old jacket I was dressed in, which naturally led me to put my hand upon the royal shoulder which was clothed with a general's scarlet uniform, and say—"This is very fine." His suite were stout, good-looking fellows, dressed only about the waist in the usual native garb, and having on the head a war cap made of monkey's skin, formed into a scull shape by a hoop of bamboo; in talking to them about God, they said "Black man cannot savez." I trust the benevolent of our land may soon direct their labour of love towards this hitherto dark and unenlightened portion of Africa. I am rejoiced to learn that the indefatigable Baptist missionaries of Fernando Po had visited this district, and by their report it is likely to become a field for their labour. God grant His blessing upon the undertaking.

At noon this day our expedition returned from up the river, having penetrated about forty or fifty miles through a country in all respects similar to the banks of the Niger, and were visited with sickness not unlike the pestilence of the above disastrous river, some of those who have just returned from the above cruise are rather complaining of sickness, but I trust it will prove to be of a trivial character.

*Wednesday, 11th May.*—At 9 A.M. we got up steam, and are slowly proceeding out to sea, surveying as we proceed, which occasions much delay, and came to anchor at sun down off the mouth of the river; we have a schooner and a ship, under the control of Captain Lilley, anchored at convenient distances, so as to aid our scientific observations.

*14th.*—This morning at 8 A.M. got up anchor, and proceeded in company with the *Soudan* through the midst of the group of the Amboyces islands. The cliffs were again lined by the wondering inhabitants (they are not dissimilar to the Bubys of Fernando Po.) Their huts are tolerably well built; as we ap-



proached near them they appeared quite confounded at the sight of us.

On the right (on the main land) is a very lofty mountain rising from the water's edge, clad round its base with fine timber of varied foliage, tint, and quality, surmounted with grass which forms above fine pasturage to the summit. It is very rare that it is clear on the top, the clouds generally resting upon it. It is called the Cameroon mountain, and may be about 13,000 feet in height. At the bottom it is found very difficult to gain an entrance into the wood, so many bushes twining themselves to the trees forming a barrier almost impenetrable.

We continued our course along a very rich and luxuriant coast, producing all tropical vegetation, and took up our station in a beautiful bay off Youngay.

16th.—Since the afternoon of the 14th we have continued anchored off Youngay; the inhabitants were very timid on our approach. A few emerged from the thickets to the coast, armed with muskets, &c., which they fired off, for the purpose, we suppose, of intimidating us. The woods were so dense we could see no huts. Their wants or curiosity is so small, that they know not the resources of the interior, but content themselves by cultivating round their huts. Having a native of the coast on board, we lowered the small boat, and sent him on shore, which soon established their confidence, and they are now bringing us off, very fine fat goats, plantains, &c., for which we barter clothes, empty bottles, needles, &c.

Yesterday, as usual, we had muster, after which the church service was gone through. Our convalescents are very much improved by the change of air which this neighbourhood affords.

17th.—Last night we were aroused by the approach of a tornado; it came on about midnight with awful violence, wind, thunder, lightning, and rain. We had great fears of

drifting towards a reef of rocks, not far distant: to avoid such a calamity we let go a second anchor, and our fires were ordered to be lighted, to get up our steam. All was hurry and confusion, and order upon order was given. The rain came down in torrents: the loud peals of thunder, and the vivid flashes of lightning, made the scene truly terrific, which together with the dead hour of the night, infused into the mind feelings of awe and veneration towards Him who rules all, and showing the insignificance of the creature, who at His sovereign fiat might be blasted or blessed.

Our anchors held fast and firm, and by sunrise we found we had not moved an inch.

At half-past 8 A.M., we got up our anchor, and, in company with the *Soudan*, are proceeding to the northward. After continuing this course half an hour, we put about ship, and returned to our old station off the Cameroon mountain at Amboyces' islands, having the river Bimbia at a short distance, where we came to anchor about 1 o'clock, and immediately we had a great many canoes alongside, bartering pigs, plantains, corns, &c. In the afternoon our captain landed on the large inhabited rock alongside of the needles' point. The day is very warm, there being no wind stirring.

18th.—During the last night we found it very cool, which caused us to arise quite refreshed and invigorated. We are anchored as near as possible in our old position, and this being our third visit, we may become well acquainted. The day again proves very hot.

19th.—To-day we received a fine young bull from the king of Bimbia; the animal was extremely furious, running at every person that approached him. The size is small, but the flesh is excellent. Since we left Fernando Po, all hands have been quite feasted, having as much goat, mutton, yams, and plantains, as they could desire. All are in excellent health and spirits.

To-day we are watering from the main land; the water

procured is of excellent quality and cool, being taken from a spring that we have partially opened by blowing up some of the rocks. Some of our gentlemen have been on shore, with the view of shooting, but met with no sport, there being very few birds, and very few animals, excepting the goat, sheep, pig, and bullock. The inhabitants barter the latter with us for cloth, &c.; goat and sheep have been bought for from 3s. to 4s. each, and on the average weigh from 40lb. to 56lb. The people generally are healthy and intelligent, very keen in making a bargain, and, as in other parts, always crying, "Dash me this," at the same time holding up some article they wish to possess.

I trust some missionaries may find their way in the midst of this people, to instruct them in those matters which concern their eternal interests. I heard that Messrs. Clarke and Prince, whilst at Fernando Po, were anxious to visit them, but found it difficult to obtain a conveyance across. God grant that something good may yet arise out of our visit to that country.

20th.—At 9 A.M., in company with the *Soudan*, we got up anchor, and are traversing among the islands, making surveys, each going in an opposite direction, by which means they measure the angles thus formed. Our people having succeeded in obtaining a sufficient supply of water, at 1 P.M. we left this delightful group of islands, and sailed round the left point, into very deep water, by which we were enabled to go quite close in shore, and observe more minutely the beauties of the coast, which is very bold, and clothed with fine timber; shortly after a fine spacious bay opened upon our sight, at the bottom of which, on the rising ground behind, is situated the town of Bimbia. The two houses of King William being situated on a favourable site, and towering above the others in height and stateliness; the walls are whitewashed, and when the sun reflects upon them, has an imposing effect when compared to the miserable huts with

which they are surrounded. The whole coast from the Cameroon river to this locality is tributary to the king upon that river. This coast contains quantities of shrimps, the Spanish word for which is *Cameroon*, the name of the coast ; they are but small in size, but are caught in considerable quantities by the ingenuity of the natives, inveigling them into a large trunk or pot let down into the sea for this purpose. The town is composed of a few straggling huts ; what are termed streets would be more correctly named as sheep walks, and the steepness and nature of the ground are such, that it is extremely difficult to maintain a footing. Lying, as we do, close to the town, we have many visitors on board, bartering their provisions and stock for empty bottles, salt, and handkerchiefs.

21st.—This being what is called “Term-day,” for astronomical observations, many of our *scientifics* went early on shore to the king-house, where they will remain 24 hours on the watch for the purpose of taking observations.

The country appears pretty well cleared of timber, near the town, and the wood cut down is kept piled in readiness for sale, an impulse is given to this traffic by the regular touching here of the *Ethiope*. Pasturage is plenty and good which is evident in the fine condition of the cattle. Palm oil is also shipped, but to a very limited extent, not exceeding 150 tuns, during the year.

I went on shore and landed first at the king’s house, which is a considerable ascent up the hill. Upon arrival, you mount a flight of steps of some height, when a spacious lobby presents itself, from which you enter into several good sized rooms used as dormitories, eating, and show-rooms for exhibiting merchandize taken in the way of trade. The windows are large openings across the house, which affords a fine current of air. The rooms I found occupied by the observers, and the king then taking his *siesta*, and my object

being to obtain information, I sallied forth in quest of adventures.

I went into many of the huts, which presented a dirty appearance, there being no exit for the smoke but the door by which you entered. The roofs of the dwellings were very low, I only found one, the inmates of which, were engaged in domestic occupations. At first they were timid and shy, but soon regained confidence and immediately began to covet some portion of our dress. One, a mother, had an infant in her lap which was decorated with beads, cowries, and animals' teeth; upon my noticing them, she immediately plainly intimated to me that she should like to have a dress for it, and a handkerchief for its little head; I found it extremely difficult to free myself from her importunities on that subject.

In another hut I saw six children from five years upwards, sitting on a bench, and several women were engaged in domestic occupations, and a man, who I at first thought was giving the children instruction, but on closer inspection, found he was anointing their eye brows with some liquid, and seeing that one of the children's eyes was infirm, I judged he was practising the medicinal art, but found that it is after this manner they mark the children's bodies, by anointing them in various devices. Some significant signs being made relative to the women present, so shocked me that I quitted the place abruptly, on which a messenger was despatched to bring me back, but I had seen enough to know their degraded state. My conscience dictated the question. Had not my countrymen by their previous intercourse been somewhat instrumental in thus leading them astray? I pray God that our present intercourse may both, by our walk and conversation, prove more profitable to their present and eternal welfare; and that their eyes may be opened to see the glorious light of the gospel? I was indeed somewhat prepared to witness,

what I saw, by the previous conduct of some females when along side of our vessel.

I pursued my course over some little ravines, at present dry, to a more remote part of the town, and found the men engaged in repairing their fishing tackle, by which they catch shrimps, and making canoes, &c. Their industry and ingenuity pleased me, but even here, they raised the old cry of a *dash*! I saw a small detached outhouse, which was filled with a strange medley of broken crockery, pots, hats, umbrellas, &c., which articles I was informed were the property of the late king, who died twelve months ago, and were deposited there, as sacred, for the departed's use, and that his successors dare not use them, upon any pretence whatever, (such being the practice of the country.) I had not been above an hour on shore before I felt perfectly satisfied at what I had seen, nor having the smallest desire of visiting them again. I hastened to the beach, where a boat was shortly afterwards sent for me.

*22nd. (Sunday.)*—During the last night we had another tornado, of equal violence, with the last, occasioning us much bustle on board; but blessed be God, our anchors held fast and firm.

After muster to-day, I had some conversation with our captain, he expressed himself interested and surprized at the account of my reception on shore. He gave me an instance in one of the king's wives, coming on board, and that he experienced the greatest difficulty on getting her to leave the ship.

We had prayers as usual, by the captain, who also read a very excellent sermon. To-day is cool and refreshing. Dined in the gun-room, the captain and myself being the only visitors.

Many of our people, have had liberty to go on shore, their reports, I am grieved to say, confirm my previous impressions, respecting the conduct of the natives.

23rd.—Last night we had another tornado, but its effects were slight. At break of day our boats were off surveying. The purser is gone on shore for bullocks, and has succeeded in purchasing three; they are but small, from 70 to 90lbs. each, at an average price of 18s. to 20s. paid for in cloth and salt.

At 10 A.M. we got up steam and anchor but were detained some time in making fresh purchases from those that came alongside. The *Soudan* had just preceded us for Fernando Po. The weather is still very wet. At 11 P.M. cast anchor again. At 1 P.M. sent our boats to survey some reported bank between this and the above island (Fernando Po), but did not succeed in finding any bottom. At 5 P.M. we again got under weigh, and anchored at 10 P.M. about midway in order to ascertain the current, and remained there till 6 A.M. of the following morning, when we proceeded on our course, and anchored at our old position at Clarence Cove, (Fernando Po), at 11 A.M. of the 24th May, where on arriving, we found some letters awaiting us, but of a very old date, but none for the expedition, which was a great disappointment.

## CHAPTER X.

From May to June.—Clarence Cove.—Princes' Island.—The Dutchman's Cap.—Captain Lilley's House.—Church Bay.—Madame Ferrera's House.—Convicts.—Death of the second Engineer.—The Kite.—Recall of the Expedition.—Departure of the Wilberforce for the Niger.—Return to England.

*May 26th.*—At Clarence Cove. Was yesterday on shore, and had a long walk, in company with Mr. F., into the bush, and through the provision grounds of the Bubys. The latter appeared in excellent condition, yielding most luxuriant crops of yams, casada, maize, plantain, and cocoa. The soil is excellent, and capable of affording great returns. We returned on board at 6 P.M.

Many of our men were also on shore, and they returned on board at a late hour, some of them in a very intoxicated state, which led to the punishment of flogging two of the number, on the following day.

*28th.*—During the last two days there has been a considerable fall of rain, and the air very hot and close.

I have seen the missionary and his wife, several times, and I trust they may be instrumental, in God's hands, in enlightening the ignorant. Mrs. S. has the teaching of the female portion of their congregation, and Mr. S. instructs the other portion of their flock. Their's is a work of great labour, and I trust they will live to reap some of the fruits ere they go hence. The expedition owes this island and its inhabitants



a great debt, for all the kindness our sick received at their hands during our calamities, and I trust it will not be forgotten by us.

Have been much engaged in the various stores on shore, in surveying the effects belonging to the expedition. The heat and the effluvia arising from the pent up stores were very disagreeable.

The *Warre*, a merchant vessel, has just arrived from Liverpool; she brought newspapers to middle of March, but no letters, with the exception of some to Mr. R. of our expedition.

5th June.—(Sunday). For the last eight days, our patience has been much exercised, having received no advices from England, although during that period, there has been two arrivals! Have been on shore the last few days, engaged in completing the survey of the whole of the excess of the ship's tackling, &c., which are now housed in the W. African Company's stores.

This morning, at 7, we got up steam and started for Princes' Island. The *Soudan* has likewise sailed for the coast of Bimbia. The patience of the officers and crew is almost exhausted with our present monotonous life. I trust something soon may be determined upon.

I dine to-day in the gun-room. At 3 P.M. we are running into N. West Bay (Fernando Po). At 9 this morning, we spoke the *Magistrate* from Calebar, for Liverpool.

7th.—This morning at sun-rise, the Princes' Island appears right a-head. At 8 we were abreast of Church Bay, and at 10, at anchor off W. Bay, in nearly the same place as when here in December last, in the *Albert*. During the last two days, in our progress hither, we had to contend against a considerable swell, which was the more felt as we had left our false keels at Fernando Po. Several are complaining of sickness and headaches, from which I have not been altogether exempt.

Our report from shore says, that the lady of the island, Madame Ferrera, is on the other side, at Port Antonio. Some letters were found on shore for the expedition, of date the beginning of February. Here we bought some fruit and poultry at a moderate price.

At noon we got up anchor, and retraced our passage, so far as to get round the east end of the island. In our progress we saw several fine houses and estates, more particularly at Church Bay. They are well sheltered by palm and cocoa-nut trees, with which this island abounds. The coast on our right, as we passed along, presented a very rocky beach, and at the extreme point extended fully a mile from the shore, which caused us to give them a wide berth till we got round, when we drew more in towards shore, and a bluff cliff presented itself about three miles distant, called the "Dutchman's Cap," and on this side of it a beautiful bay opened to our view, with the fantastical sugar-loaf shaped hills (on the other side at W. Bay before alluded to) became visible.

On our approach we found the bay led up to the port, on rounding which, Capt. Lilley's schooner from the Cameroons, with the English standard floating from it, and also a small house on shore, in which that gentleman resided, was presented to our view.

Mdme. Ferrera appears to take a great liking to the English, which was shown by what her late husband (the governor) and herself have done for Dr. Oldfield, of Niger celebrity.

At the bottom of the bay stands the town, rendered striking from its peculiar situation and picturesque view. The country ascends on all sides, and is covered with the richest verdure of the tropics. The buildings are whitewashed, and are generally erected on posts; the under part is used as stores, and for culinary purposes, &c. The church, gaol, and governor's house, and that belonging to Mdme. F., are the most striking; the other buildings being very poor hovels. In the bay were anchored some small Portuguese

craft, near to which we let go our anchor at 3 P.M., lying inside of the English schooner.

9th.—Yesterday I went on shore. Madame F.'s house is a large building, close upon the water's edge, on a small rising ground. The under part of the house is kept as a store, for her own produce, merchandize of cloths, trinkets, &c. I saw three horses in her stables, (these animals comprise the whole stock of the island).

I proceeded into the town, which presents several close, confined streets. The houses, as before described, are principally composed of wood. In company with our purser I called at the governor's residence, but as he was enjoying his siesta he could not be disturbed. We saw the captain of the guard; his vocations are of a varied nature, as he will provide you with provisions, and even eggs, poultry, &c. His *official* duties cannot be very burdensome, as there are but six soldiers, together with a drummer.

There are two Catholic churches in the town! The inhabitants are a very poor and squalid people; they do little, but in cultivation, and in that occupation the Portuguese are not over industrious.

The extent of the island is about 20 miles in circumference and contains a population of about 20,000 persons, the majority of whom are slaves. I met a gang (of convicts) working in the streets, in chains. I went to a Portuguese watchmaker for a glass but he had none that would suit my watch, I however purchased one, the cost of which in England would have been 6*d.* or 9*d.*, but he charged me 4*s.* 4*d.* for it. He was a man having a large family, who, at the time of my call, appeared to have just risen from their siesta. It is a wonder how they obtain a livelihood, in such a place.

On returning for embarkation, I got a glimpse of Madame F.: she appeared about 45 years of age, of a sallow complexion, tall and rather corpulent. She was surrounded by half a dozen female slaves, who were well dressed, and

seated on the ground, engaged in needle work. Madame F. has visited Europe, and from the little I saw of her, her manners appeared very lady-like.

Our Captain and Dr. P—— have had a ride over part of the island. They speak in high terms of the country and its products. It is capable of yielding largely to the hand of industry, all kinds of tropical produce. The coffee is highly esteemed, the berry being of an excellent quality. We got on board six or eight bags of about 130lbs. each, costing about 6½*d.* per lb. Many of our officers laid in a stock of cigars, their quality being tolerably good.

Went on board along with the captain, and some of our officers, who had been purchasing port wine, for which they paid 30 dollars for about 25 gallons; the wine was poor and meagre.

At 9 o'clock, the following morning, we got up anchor and retraced our course back to W. Bay, where we anchored at 2 P.M. in order to take in fuel.

10*th*, W. Bay. At 5 A.M. up anchor and left this beautiful island, with wind and current in our favour, and making rapid progress (about seven knots per hour) to Fernando Po, which we expect to make in 24 hours. The swell is heavy, but being with us, we feel it but little.

11*th*, at anchor in Clarence Cove.—After a delightful run we anchored at 8 A.M. No news yet! The *Golden Spring* bark, being the only vessel in port, went on shore and saw many of my friends. This being scrubbing day on board, all is confusion.

12*th*, (*Sunday*).—Up anchor and steam at 8 A.M. We started again for the islands of Amboyces, the *Soudan* having preceeded us two hours. At 2 P.M. we brought up at our old station, which, from its cool and retired situation, and by being so close at hand to this coast that we can remark most arrivals at Fernando Po, induces our captain to run over there.

14th, at anchor in Amboyces. Since our arrival, a general overhauling of stores, scrubbing and whitewashing, has been going forward, which adds much to our discomfort.

15th.—Weather cool; our second engineer (Ross) from England who only joined us, about a month ago, has for eight days past been laid down with fever, and for the last two, has become quite insensible, neither opening his eyes, or taking the least notice of any thing passing around him, and refusing all kind of nourishment. Yesterday he had his temples blistered, but it had no good effect. To-day he appears to be drawing fast to his end, breathing hard; at 9 P.M. his breathing was evidently lessening, and at 10 he expired, without a struggle.

It was a trying scene to those who witnessed the period of the separation of soul and body, and to myself especially, as I had been watching the fading ember for upwards of an hour before the spirit took its flight to the regions above. I trust this visitation may be blessed to all of us, and as our hearts are somewhat softened at this time by the peculiarity of our state of suspense the impression may be lasting. I regret that it was found needful to commit the body to the deep at some distance from where we now lie, the crew not having thereby an opportunity of joining in this last act of the living to the dead!

Shortly after the above melancholy occurrence, we were visited with a most violent tornado of thunder, lightning and rain, which lasted two hours, and was of such a terrific character that it appeared as if a number of great guns were firing upon us at one and the same moment, shaking our bark as if a thunder bolt had burst over us, reminding us of what we may look for at the awful coming of our Lord in His great majesty to judge the earth at the last day.

The atmosphere is now clear and somewhat cooled by the late storm, we are now seldom a day without rain, on the 16th we had another tornado of equal violence with the last.

The frequent occurrence of these may be attributable to our proximity to the Cameroon mountains, which attract the electric fluid, and are seldom clear of their cloudy cap.

*Sunday, 19th June.*—After muster we had church service and a sermon as usual, and afterwards dined in the gun room along with Captains Allen and Ellis, for whose kind attentions, as well as for those of the gentlemen of the gun room, I feel much indebted.

*20th.*—At 5 A.M. we had up steam, and are now going closer in shore in order the more easily to obtain water. At noon having completed our watering we returned to Clarence Cove; at which place we came to anchor at sunset, when to our great disappointment we found there had been no arrivals from Europe since our departure.

*21st.*—Went on shore and found all friends well, and sympathizing with us in our late visitation by death.

We are now busily engaged in sending on shore all our excess of stores, ship's tackle, &c., in order to have our holds whitewashed and cleansed, and in receiving coals, on board which are stowed away in every crevice and corner that can be thought of, which preparations evidently are the forerunner of some more lengthened cruise than we have had lately; I pray God that in this, as well as all our subsequent movements may be under His especial guidance then we have nothing to fear from the pestilential arrows that may fly thick around us.

We have now about 130 tons of coals on board, and all are on the tip-toe of expectation to ascertain whether we are on the eve of proceeding homeward, or to direct our steps again to the ill-fated Niger, I feel myself quite resigned to whatever may be the will of God at this momentous crisis.

*24th.*—Last night about twelve o'clock, all hands were roused from their slumbers by the approach of a large steamer (a stranger to this port) working her way into the Cove, we were not long in launching a boat to visit the stranger, and

immediately we received the joyful intelligence that it was H.M. steam vessel *Kite* sent out expressly by government with our long looked for instructions ; it is easier to conceive than describe the joy with which each countenance was gladdened when it was resounded that the orders were our recall. Our next delightful anticipation was the unsealing of letters received from those near and dear to us, yet hesitation, stopt at the threshold, fearing lest they might be the messengers of gloom and despondency, but blessed be God, so far as I learned of my companions' intelligence from their friends, all fears were removed by the opening of their packets, my letters also conveyed the pleasing intelligence of the welfare of my friends.

After being well satiated with the long looked for intelligence, about two o'clock in the morning we betook ourselves to our hammocks.

29th.—For the last few days my mind has been kept in an awful state of suspense ; for, finding one of our squadron was about to proceed up the Niger manned by blacks, and a few white officers (volunteers.) I had a desire to form one of the devoted company in order to accompany the Commissioner (if his services were required at the model farm) ; on the 26th I volunteered in the above capacity, which was accepted of. But on the following day, something occurring to prevent the Commissioner following his intention of proceeding to the confluence of the Tchadda and Niger, did away with the need of my services on board of the *Wilberforce* ; this vessel being the one appointed for the expedition under the command of Lieutenant Webb, who has volunteered together with several officers, comprising the clerk in charge of the *Soudan*, our first engineer, carpenter, gunner, and blacksmith ; some difficulty occurring in filling up the medical department, Mr. H. the surgeon resident at Clarence Cove, tendered his services which were accepted, making together seven or eight white officers.

At noon of the 28th the *Wilberforce* left her anchorage in Clarence Cove, being towed by H.M. steam vessel *Kite*. Captain Allen and his clerk go on board the latter vessel as far as the mouth of the Niger; from whence she will go with Captain A. in quest of the commander in chief for instructions, regarding the disposal of the steamers of the expedition, and provision for the transport home of the officers and crews of the ill-fated Niger expedition.

On the sailing of the *Wilberforce*, her former companion in trial, the *Soudan*, fired a gun, when the yards were immediately manned, and three hearty cheers given from both vessels. The parting was one of great poignancy to many of us, not being likely to meet again; but I trust that the arm of the Lord may be around their commander and his intrepid associates, in every trial and danger, and send them back safe, having their heads crowned with laurels for this, their labour of love towards the poor people left at the model farm. Their instructions are to render them every assistance, in securing their crops, implements, &c., and to bring them down the river, if their lives are rendered unsafe by remaining. It is thought three or four weeks will be occupied in doing what is intended, and they have on board fuel sufficient for thirty days, of twelve hours.

In the mean time a vessel will be stationed at the Nun, or rather at the mouth of the Niger, to render them every assistance their necessities may require on their return down the river.

28th.—At sun-set I embarked on board the merchant ship *Golden Spring*, on the eve of departing for London, where I have the prospect of comfortable accommodation, pleasant society, and a trip homeward to the shores of Old England.



## CHAPTER XI.

From June to September.—Clarence Cove.—The Golden Spring.—Superiority of Steam over Sails.—Calms.—Slow Progress.—The Isle of Wight.—Conclusion.

*28th June, 1842, Clarence Cove.*—I embarked this evening on board the bark *Golden Spring*, bound for London, under the command of Capt. Irving. The vessel is well found in all things, although old, having been built for the West India trade, and many years ago traded to Jamaica; she is about 400 tons burthen, and has on board a crew of sixteen hands. The vessel and cargo are owned by the West African Company, and she is laden with palm oil, red wood, ivory, &c.

*2nd July.*—This day, at 3 P.M., our captain joined Mr. C—and myself. He had been detained till this day by the dilatory character of the company's agent in the Cove, who had not made up the ship's accounts, &c. As may be naturally supposed, we are anxious to leave this coast, and each hour's delay to those in readiness to depart appeared as so many days. The vessel has been under sail the last two days, lying off and on in the entrance of the Cove; our emotions were therefore great, when we observed our boat approaching from the shore, with our captain on board, and the wel-

come orders given to be off immediately. The last point of the island we had in sight was Cape Horatio, bearing east about three miles; and we continued our course towards the Princes' Island. The wind and current being against us, makes it tedious to work our way out of the bight.

Our captain is an excellent young man, and does everything in his power to render those about him happy and comfortable.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, we were in E. long. three miles, and N. lat.  $2^{\circ} 29'$ , being enabled only to make a few miles each day. I had not previously any conception of the difficulty of getting out of this bight. Here was evidenced the great superiority of steam over sailing, by being enabled to get at once down in a direct course to the Rolla's Island, of which Capt. Trotter availed himself when he went home in the *Warri*, by having the *Albert* to tow her down thus far on her homeward voyage, being a saving of six or eight days.

On the 14<sup>th</sup>, we were in W. long.  $3^{\circ} 33'$ , and N. lat.  $1^{\circ} 40'$ , having most delightful weather. As we get to the west the air every day becomes more cool and dry. Having an abundant stock of sheep, goats, fowls, pigs, yams, &c., on board, we live well, and the time passes agreeably.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> our observation was in lat.  $1^{\circ} 20'$ , and long.  $6^{\circ} 40'$ , having had a delightful breeze during the last twenty-four hours, which enabled us to run down 200 miles. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, we were in lat.  $1^{\circ} 37'$ , and long.  $9^{\circ} 46'$ , being off the American settlement of Liberia; the thermometer stood in the morning at  $71^{\circ}$  and  $72^{\circ}$ . We have a very heavy dew falling during the night, as we approach the African coast.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, were in lat.  $1^{\circ} 32'$ , and long  $13^{\circ} 45'$ , at noon we steered directly north-west, with a fine breeze, all sails drawing wind S.E. This is indeed a cheering day, our faces being turned homewards; and if we are permitted to set foot on England's shores, may our lives, both in act and deed,

be dedicated to the service of our God. Mr. C. reads prayers, and a sermon every Sunday, but I am grieved to find few of the crew avail themselves of the privilege of joining with us.

21st.—We were in lat.  $3^{\circ} 28'$ , and long.  $20^{\circ}$ , sailing in a N. N.W. course, thermometer  $82^{\circ}$ ; the weather most delightful, and being in excellent health, and having a good stock of books on board, the day passes away very profitably. We generally leave our hammocks at sunrise, and take coffee; breakfast at 8; dine at 3; tea at 7; and bed at 10. My cabin being somewhat confined and close, have caused a return of headache, so I have moved into the open cabin, which is more airy.

31st.—We are progressing but slowly to-day in lat.  $12^{\circ} 57'$ , and long.  $25^{\circ}$ , being about 120 miles off the Cape de Verd islands; thermometer  $89^{\circ}$ . During the last ten days, have made very little progress, having run only about nine degrees of latitude, the wind being very light.

8th August.—To-day we crossed the tropic of Cancer (to me the eighth time) at noon, being in lat.  $23^{\circ} 34'$ , and long.  $32^{\circ} 10'$ ; thermometer  $82^{\circ}$ . We now daily expect what is called the "variables," having got beyond the influence of the trade winds. Our great point is to stretch as far north as possible.

30th.—Lat.  $38^{\circ} 54'$ , long.  $31^{\circ} 40'$ . To-day we are in sight of the western islands of Flores and Corva, being the first land we have seen since we left Fernando Po; and although we are fifty miles off, still it is a pleasing contemplation to know by them the correctness of our reckoning, and that we are thus advancing towards our native shores. The former island, at first sight, reminds me of Salisbury Craigs in Scotland. The latter is of a conical shape rising from the water.

During the whole of this month we have had little besides light baffling winds, and calms for eight or ten days, not making over twelve miles per day, and there being a strong current against us, we lost way; so that during the last

twenty - three days we have only run down about sixteen degrees.

From the early part of our voyage we vainly calculated upon a short and expeditious one. Alas ! how vain are the thoughts and ways of man, verifying the old proverb, " Man may plan, but the execution thereof is with God."

At this season of the year generally there are calms in the course we have to pursue. From the circuitous route we make, the distance is from 6,500 to 7,000 miles, dependent on a variety of winds, but in general the voyage is accomplished in eight or ten weeks. None on board ever met with such a continuous succession of calms. However, we are not solitary instances, as at one period we could count twenty vessels similarly situated. On the 30th July, we spoke with the bark *Kingston* for Liverpool, out 107 days from Calcutta, we furnished the Captain with a few yams, and he supplied us with London papers to the 25th May, which proved a great treat to us, he having got these at the island of St. Helena.

8th Sept.—To-day we are in lat.  $42^{\circ} 37'$ , and long.  $24^{\circ} 20'$ ; thermometer  $75^{\circ}$ . The calm weather continuing till to-day, when we got a fine breeze right aft, every stitch of sail being set, we make about six knots an hour.

Our voyage being so protracted, the consumption of provisions reminded us of the necessity of economising. On the 2nd we were in sight of the island of Graciosa, another of the Western Islands, distant about 50 miles south from us, and we were two days in sight of Flores and Corva. On the 5th we spoke with the *North Britain* of Leith, for London, out 127 days from Calcutta, from which we had a barrel of beef, and some tea and sugar, which proved a very acceptable supply; having only a few days' consumption of meat left. The last two days have been cold, and we were glad to resort to our woollen clothes, and neckerchiefs, the wind being from the eastward for some time, but again came round from

the south, it is much warmer. Our course is direct east and we have about 800 miles to run, before we enter the Channel. If the wind holds good we may in six or eight days be looking out for the coast of *Old England* with its white cliffs, and anticipating home, which word conveys to the weary traveller, charms, which to them alone, can be felt in full force.

*12th Sept.*—Yesterday was the Sabbath, and Mr. C. as he has done regularly, conducted the service with much propriety, reading additional prayers of thanksgiving for God's mercy in so far leading us safely through so many dangers and difficulties.

To-day we have the wind from almost all quarters of the compass. For the last few days, we have made tolerable progress, and are in  $46^{\circ} 3' N.$  lat., and  $14^{\circ} 26' W.$  long., and now about 500 miles from Old England. The weather is cold. Thermometer  $64^{\circ}$  at 9 A.M. At noon  $70^{\circ}$ , with much moisture in the air.

On Saturday we killed our last Bimbia sheep, whose flesh proved very delicious, as lately we have been bearing hard upon the salted stock.

*Sept. 18th.*—Off the Isle of Wight, at noon this day, we had the pilot boat *Tally-ho* along side, and after some negotiation, Mr. C. and myself stepped on board of her to be landed at Portsmouth, when we embarked we expected a very few hours would land us on terra firma. However, the wind completely failed, and we did not reach shore till 10 P.M., at this late hour we had difficulty in getting our baggage passed, however, the good people of the custom-house when they knew from whence we came, and our anxiety to be off by the morning train for London, set aside for the time the usual formality, by examining them immediately. So that by half-past one of the morning of the *19th*, I was again under the power of steam, and propelled with great velocity, and by five o'clock I entered the great city of Lon-

don, where, to my unspeakable joy, I found all my friends in the enjoyment of excellent health, of which, praise to my God, I was in possession of a large portion.

#### CONCLUSION.

THUS have I concluded, at the end of eighteen months, my engagements with the Niger expedition; and in looking back on its history, so far as I have been personally concerned, I have much cause of thankfulness to a covenant-keeping God, who watched over me from the day I joined the expedition to the period of its termination; but I feel that it becomes all who were concerned in the enterprise, whether as originators, counsellors, or those who volunteered to carry out the intentions of government, to weigh well if any cause can be traced why a gracious and prayer-hearing God has seen meet to disappoint the high hopes of those who had interested themselves in a mission, so merciful, so gracious, and so generous; it is not my part to criticise or judge any, who put their hand to this work, for it is with God who is over all and doeth nothing in vain.

The friends of Africa should not be cast down, neither be induced by the result of the late expedition, to slacken their exertions in seeking to deliver such a large portion of the world and its population from the unhappy condition in which it now lies. It will be seen in looking at the history of almost every philanthropic and Christian attempt to bring down the kingdom of Satan, God in His mysterious providence has often thought it good to damp the zeal and warmth of the first promoters of such enterprises by disappointment and discomfiture. We have a striking example of this in the history of the mission to the South Sea Islands, the first attempt, which was made upwards of forty years ago, seemed a complete failure, but within a few years afterwards, God through very

slender means brought down idolatry in these islands, and established in its stead the Christian religion, and now looking on the improved condition of the population of these islands, it may be said, "What hath God wrought?" let the friends of Africa, therefore not be discouraged in the great work which they have undertaken, for God has said, "it is not by might and by power, but by my spirit;" this word also has been strikingly verified in God's dealings with the Jewish people, when they sought to work by mighty power, and run with hasty steps; then He smote their power, and stood in their way.

The Niger expedition, I doubt not, has sown seed, which will yield abundantly, by and bye, if watered by prayer, and the work followed up in a spirit of sincerity, love, and self-denial. It is a mighty work and much patient forbearance will be required in faithful use of the means God may put in the power of those who are waiting for His guidance and direction. The people in general being deep-rooted in their degrading fanaticism and immoral habits, any sudden change (but through a miracle of God) cannot be expected, but as this labour of love cannot be otherwise than well pleasing in the sight of God, and as there lies a great obligation on all Europe, and specially on the people of this country to make almost every sacrifice to do what they can, to raise a people whom they have been so instrumental in debasing.

I trust through the light of God's word and His especial teaching therein, means may be speedily adopted and carried into effect, that with God's blessing, idolatry, cruelty, and gross moral darkness shall be brought down and dispelled: that, as is now witnessed in the Southern islands of the Atlantic, the nations of Africa shall cast their gods into the sea, and in place of idolatry, the pure doctrines of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shall be taught and practised. Then "the wilderness shall become a fruitful field."

## APPENDIX.

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THE following are the correct particulars, extracted from the *African Friend*, of the three steamers with their equipments, previous to their departure from England.

“The Expedition will consist of three iron steamers, strongly built, and of light draught of water, fitted for river navigation. Three such vessels have been built by Messrs. Laird of Liverpool, and fitted with every improvement which their well-known experience could suggest. At their launch in September last the steamers received respectively the names of ALBERT, in honour of the Royal President of the “African Civilization Society;” WILBERFORCE, in memory of that venerated name; SOUDAN, (or more correctly Habīb-es-Sudan,) or Friend of the Blacks. The dimensions of the vessels, the two larger of which are exactly of the same size, rig, and power, with all their stores precisely alike, are as follows :—

| ALBERT, AND WILBERFORCE, |             | SOUDAN.     |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Length on deck .         | 136 ft.     | 110 ft.     |
| Breadth of beam .        | 27 ft.      | 22 ft.      |
| Depth of hold .          | 10 ft.      | 8 ft. 6 in. |
| Draught of water .       | 5 ft. 9 in. | 4 ft.       |
| Tonnage, about .         | 440 tons.   | 250 tons.   |
| Two sliding keels .      | 6 ft. deep. |             |

“Each of the larger vessels has two engines of 35 horse power each, and can carry coals for 15 days (of 12 hours). The smaller has one engine of 35 horse power, and can carry coal for 10 days. All the engines were constructed by Mr. Forrester, of Liverpool. The vessels have as roomy and airy accommodation as their size would permit. The *Soudan* is intended for detached service, when required, up smaller rivers; for conveying intelligence or invalids, and especially for sounding a-head of the other vessels in difficult or unknown navigation.



"The vessels are thoroughly equipped with every necessary, nay, every comfort that prudence or foresight could dictate. The supply of provisions of all kinds is most ample, including preserved meats, chiefly prepared by Goldner, and sufficient for the consumption of the crews for four months.

"The command of the whole Expedition is entrusted to Captain Trotter, of the Royal Navy, already well known by his services in putting down slavery while in command of the *Curlew*, on the coast of Africa. The two other officers in command are, Captain William Allen, R.N., the companion of Lander in his last voyage, and to whom we are indebted for the chart of the Quorra, and Captain Bird Allen, R.N., who has long been employed on the survey in the West Indies, and is well acquainted with the African character.

"The crews of the three vessels consist besides, of 22 marines, and 88 seamen and stokers; of these 88, not less than 20, or nearly one-fourth, already entered, are Africans by birth. On their arrival at Sierra Leone, the ships will take on board about 120 Kroomen, who will do all the work that requires exposure, as wooding, watering, &c."

Statement of Casualties which occurred on board H.M. steam vessels,  
during the Niger Expedition.

Per ALBERT from 12th day of May, 1841, to 28th January 1842.

|                            |   |   |   |   |   |      |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| Died from fever            | . | . | . | . | . | 23   |
| „ on board the Wilberforce | . | . | . | . | . | 1    |
| Drowned                    | . | . | . | . | . | 1    |
| Accident                   | . | . | . | . | . | 1 26 |

|                           |                 |   |   |      |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|---|------|
| Per WILBERFORCE as above. | Died from fever | . | . | 9    |
|                           | Casualties      | . | . | 2 11 |

|                      |                 |   |   |      |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|---|------|
| Per SOUDAN as above. | Died from fever | . | . | 12   |
|                      | Drowned         | . | . | 1 13 |

50

Original white men 32, in the SOUDAN.

|                                      |   |   |   |      |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| Deaths as above                      | . | . | . | 13   |
| Invalided home                       | . | . | . | 15   |
| Sick officers now restored to health | . | . | . | 4 32 |

*Notes referred to in the Introduction. (A)*

The writer of the foregoing pages resided in the Island of Trinidad for several months in furtherance of his commercial pursuits. During that period, he occupied his leisure hours in visiting the negro population in those districts where the London Society's Missions were established; he held much intercourse with the inquiring negroes, and it was gratifying to find them of all ages thirsting after instruction, and ready in committing to memory portions of the Word of God.

On walking out one morning he was delighted at the sound of Church music issuing from the huts of the negroes, and proceeding onward, his ear was charmed by a young voice repeating a hymn; on turning round he saw a knot of little boys, who had been employed in collecting stones, raising their loads upon their heads. The eldest gave out the line, and the others responded in tuneful voices. On other occasions and frequently on the Sabbath morning he went into the provision grounds, and summoned the negroes from their engagements to the curing house, where the Missionaries broke to them the Word of Life. The writer accompanied the Wesleyan missionary in his labours of love among the negroes, and was gratified at witnessing the union of several couples in holy matrimony, and to observe that a large building, formerly used as a house of dancing and dissipation, was now converted into a house of prayer.

*Note (B).*

Letter of Introduction from Dr. Herschell, the chief Rabbi at London.

האף אומנם שזה הולך בספנית ווילבערפארס איננו מבני  
עמינו וישמו וויליעם סימפסן הוא ההולך ברשות  
המלכה ירה לנהר נייגר לחקור ולדרוש מה ימצא שמה  
אף כי לא מבני עמינו הוא מכל מקום נודע לנו פה כי  
לא מן המסיתים לדת אחרת הוא וזה כמה שנים אנו  
מכירים אותו כי אוהב ישראל ודתם הוא

פה לוונדן יום ה' כ"ג לחדש ניסן שנת תר"א לפ"ק  
וזאת השננה ניתן לכתוב בפקודת אריומ הרב הנאון  
אב"ד דפה נר"ו

ה"ק אהרן ב"ר יהודא ליב מליסא  
דיין דפה יע"א

## TRANSLATION.

The Gentleman William Simpson deputed by the command of our Gracious Queen with the ship "Wilberforce" to inquire after

the customs of the nations situated on the river "Tigris" and to know what is to be found therein however he is not of our nation is still known unto us as one whose intention is not to remove people from their religion and we know him since long as a friend of Israel and their laws

*London Thursday 23rd of the Month Misan 5601.*

Given by the command of our Chief Rabbi  
Aaron son of Isaac (assessor)

The following is a letter of Introduction from the Portuguese Rabbi at London.

**שלום אל אחינו בני ישראל בכל מקום מושבותם :**

הנה אנכי עבד ה' דוד הוא הקטן הכותב לכם לדעת  
מטובתכם ואת מספר נפשותיכם ומה מעשיכם  
והספרים שיש ביניכם אחרי חתימת התלמוד  
ועל פי איזה מנהגים אתם מתנהגים את הכל  
תודיעני בארוכה באר הישב על יד האיש הלזה  
הוא ההולך קדמכם לחקור ולגלות מקומות  
וארץ מושבותיכם : והנה אנחנו בני ישראל  
המפוזרים במקומות הללו מאמינים בתורת  
משה עבד ה' ואחריו דברי הנביאים ודברי  
התלמוד ואחריו ספרי רבינו משה בן מיימון  
הנקרה בפי כל הרמ"ם וכו' על הכל יבא  
דבריכם הטוב והנני היום הכותב לכם מצפה  
לישועת ה' בביאת גואלינו גואל ישראל ומתפלל  
בעד הצלחתכם כותב ביום כ"ח לחדש ניסן  
שנת התרי"א לבריאת עולם :

פה עיר לונדון הגדולה : זה שמי דוד בן הרב  
הגדול רבינו רפאל מילדולה בן החכם  
רבי משה מילדולה בן הרב רבינו רפאל  
מילדולה : ואני דוד הקטן רועה עם  
ישראל פה ללמד את הדרך ילכו בה  
את חקי האלהים ותורותיו :

שם האיש ההולך במקומותכם איש טוב הוא  
שמו סימסון ותטיבו עמו לעשות לו טובה :

שמי ישראל ה' אלדודי ה' אחר :

## TRANSLATION.

Peace to our Brethren the children of Israel in all place of their habitations.

I the servant of the Lord named David the little is he who writes this in order to inquire after your welfare and the number of the souls and wishes also to know your occupation and what books are to be found amongst you after the conclusion of the Talmud and to what customs you are adhered All this let me know well and clear explained through this man who goes towards you to explore and search the places of your habitations

And know we children of Israel who are scattered in all those places do believe on the law of Moses the servant of the Almighty and the Prophets and the Talmud and then on the books of Rabbi Moses ben Maimonides who is known under the term Rambam and all these we pray to let us know and may your kind words reach us

And I the writer of this do hope for the salvation of the Almighty by sending our redeemer the redeemer of Israel and do pray for your welfare

*Written on the 22nd March in the Year 5601 of the Creation; London, the Metropolis.*

This is my name David son of the wise Rabbi Raphael Moses Meldola son of wise Rabbi Moses Meldola son of Rabbi R. M. and I David the *little* shepherd of the people of Israel to instruct them the way of the Almighty and to follow in his statutes and laws

The name of the person who goes towards you is Simpson meet and receive him kindly for he is a good man

Hear, O Israel! the Lord our God is only one God

*Note (C).*

The ground upon which some of my most esteemed friends opposed my engagement in connection with the Niger expedition, was higher than the mere anticipation of personal danger. They maintained from scriptural testimony that the time had not yet arrived for the redemption of the sons of Ham, as a nation, neither were the means now about being employed such as accord with the views THEY entertained of the word of God.

They did not say, that the witness of the gospel should not be lifted up on the shores of Africa, and through its length and breadth; on the contrary, they believed in the word of God given "Go preach the gospel to all people;" but viewed this command as a witness to be borne to all nations before the coming of the Lord, they argued that the first event to be looked for in the order of prophetic revelation, was the deliverance of the Jews from captivity, and their national restoration to the promised land; after which the light should shine forth from Jerusalem to all the ends of the earth, and that then

“Princes should come out of Egypt, and Ethiopia would soon stretch out her hands to God.” Psalm lxviii. 29 and 31 verse.

*Note, page 20, (A).*

It would appear that the Episcopal Church here have two churches with two clergymen, containing about 1200 members; the Wesleyans, four missionaries and about 2300 members; and the Baptists mission, about 500 members.

It may be interesting to the general reader to learn from statements laid before Parliament a more enlarged account of this colony, and that of the interesting people the Kroomen.

“The general aspect of the country in the immediate vicinity of this colony, and the external appearance of Freetown, convey to the mind of a stranger an idea of salubrity. The buildings are large, the streets wide and regular; the roads are excellent, and the markets are abundantly supplied. The streets of Freetown resemble those of Washington.

“Between each row of houses there are large intervals of unoccupied space, or of the sites of former houses now encumbered with ruins. And the wide intermediate space between the sides of the streets, which seem laid out for the crowded thoroughfares of some mighty city, present no appearance of life or business; the grass grows in the centre and flourishes there, even in the principal streets; its verdure is, however, by no means refreshing to the sight of the European passenger, for no wilderness can appear more dreary than the deserted streets of an inhabited town, where silence reigns, and over which sickness or some impending calamity seems to hang.

“The stores of the European merchants have no aspect of business. The only stir and bustle of a thriving trade that seems to exist is in those where rum of the most pernicious quality is sold to the negroes; and in the stalls of the latter, where guns and gunpowder, tobacco, spirits, hardware, coarse cloths, and handkerchiefs, are retailed to their countrymen and to the natives from the adjoining countries.

“From 10 o'clock in the morning till 5 in the evening, a white man is seldom seen abroad; at the latter hour the race-course and the promenade on the battery are frequented by equestrians and pedestrians; and perhaps no circumstance that strikes the attention of a stranger makes so strong an impression on his mind as the general expression he observes of languor and debility in the looks of every individual he meets of European birth (with, perhaps, two or three exceptions) in the colony. The young and the old, the acclimated even, as they are deemed, who have had their seasoning either in one fever, or the periodical return of that malady, and have survived these attacks, show plainly enough the baneful influence of the cli-

mate, which leaves the features without vivacity, the frame without vigour, and the whole constitution apparently deficient in vitality.

"Those who are not absolutely ill, are always ailing; in fact, all the white people seem to belong to a population of invalids. The sallowness of their complexion, the listlessness of their looks, the attenuation of their limbs, the instability of gait, and the feebleness of the whole frame, that are so observable in this climate, are but too evident signs, even where organic disease has not yet set in, that the disordered state of the functions which goes under the name of impaired health exists, and in none is it more painfully evident than in the general appearance of the European women and children in this colony. Indeed to the latter the climate is allowed to be almost universally fatal.

"This pernicious climate has proved most destructive to those who have been sent out to the colony as governors. From 1825 to 1830, the deaths of the governors averaged more than one a year. General Turner went out in February, 1825: he lived only 12 months. General Campbell survived only 12 months; Colonel Denham six months; Colonel Lumley lived only six months after his appointment; Sir John Jeremie died of fever, four months and five days after his arrival in the colony as governor.

"The Kroomen are all Pagans, neither the Christian nor the Mahomedan religion has ever made the slightest progress in their country; and there is not, I believe, a single instance known of a Krooman in Sierra Leone having been converted to the Christian faith.

"I took some trouble to make myself acquainted with their religious opinions, and it will be seen that, like all the people of Africa, the propitiation of evil spirits, under the various anomalous forms of Fetish observances, is the only species of worship that is offered to supernal power, and that to deprecate the wrath of beings who have the power and the will to do injury to men is the great object of their religious homage to the devils, who preside over human affairs.

"These people, like all the other Pagan Africans I have met with, have an obscure idea of the existence of one great Deity, by whom the whole world was created, and to whom all good men go when they die. They have an ill-defined belief in the goodness of that Deity, but they believe his care or providence does not extend to the human race in this world; the government of it is delegated to the evil spirits, so that they offer no homage to the Deity, but only seek to ingratiate themselves into the favour of his ministers.

"They make no human sacrifice in honour of the Fetish divinities, like the Pagans of Dahomey, the Bonny, Ashantee, and Appolonia; they frequently sacrifice animals, however, to them, and this sacrifice

of shedding blood and offering up the flesh of the slaughtered animal, prevails over the whole regions of Africa wherever Paganism has been found.

"The forts that are now kept up on the coast are, Cape Coast Castle, James Fort, Accra, Anamaboe, and Dixcove. Cape Coast Castle is the largest of these forts. The anomalous system of government pursued, and the total absence of a judicial establishment in Cape Coast Castle, are much complained of. The government of this settlement is administered by a President of the Council, a military commandant, and a surgeon. The following are their respective salaries:—

|                          |   |   |   |       |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| President of the Council | . | . | . | £ 620 |
| Secretary                | . | . | . | 300   |
| Commandant of troops     | . | . | . | 200   |
| Surgeon                  | . | . | . | 200   |

"The troops at Cape Coast Castle are commanded by an European. The native population of Cape Coast Castle is 5,000; European merchants, 12; missionaries, 6; and other white residents, 12, or more. The Europeans occupy about 18 stone houses, valued at 1,000*l.* to 2,000*l.* sterling each. The natives live in "swish" houses made of mud, which become hard and durable, and they last as long as the roof resists the rain. The authorities of the Castle exercise power over the whole of the country, from Dixcove to Accra, an extent of 120 miles. Civilization is said to be confined within the limits of the Castle. The whole country about Cape Coast Castle is one great wilderness of verdure. It is only about 15 or 20 miles from the sea-side where civilization is carried on to any extent. From this distance the plantains, yams, cassava, and corn, are carried on the heads of the women to market, with their infants slung across their backs. The men treat the women in the most revolting manner, making them do all the drudgery of labour. The consequences of this brutal treatment are, the women suffer from premature exhaustion, decrepitude, and decay. The soil is poor on the sea-side, but four miles inland it is fit for any kind of tropical produce. Mr. Swansey made an attempt to introduce the growth of cotton and coffee, and spent much time and money in the experiment. At his death the cultivation of cotton was neglected. The cotton trees are now growing wild, and the cultivation is entirely given up. The coffee grown on the western coast of Africa is said to be nearly approaching in quality to that of Mocha, but the heavy duty, 1*s.* 3*d.* per pound, imposed on its importation into England amounts to an absolute prohibition of its growth. The trade of Cape Coast has considerably increased of late years.

"The following tabular statement of the exports and imports for the year 1839 will give some idea of the commercial advantages at Cape Coast.

|                          |   |   |   |          |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|----------|
| Exports from Cape Coast, | . | . | . | £194,576 |
| Imports into ditto       | . | . | . | 354,460  |

"Anamaboe appears to be better adapted for trade with Ashantee than Cape Coast. It is situated about 11 miles from the former place. It is stated, that in a few years, Anamaboe will have the greater part of the trade of Cape Coast. The population of the town is 4,100. The fort is built on land purchased from the Fantee nation. The mortality amongst the garrison has been for the last five years 1 in 17. In 1840 the imports amounted to 50,000*l.*; the exports to 60,000*l.* The trade is principally carried on in London and Bristol ships. The climate is the same as at Cape Coast. The rains set in in the month of May, and continue for four months, which months are the most sickly in the year.

"Accra is 75 miles to the eastward of Cape Coast. A considerable trade is carried on in this port. The palm oil trade is considerably on the increase. The commandant of the fort, who administers the government, has 100*l.* a year. The native population is 4,000. The only place of worship is one connected with the Wesleyan missionaries.

"34 British and 41 foreign vessels visited British Accra last year. The soil on the coast is light and sandy, but a few miles inland it is excellent, though there is little cultivation, except of vegetables. The Danes have established a coffee plantation, which is said to produce excellent coffee.

"The only difficulty in finding labourers, or any species of prædial employment, is the ordinary rate of wages, which is only 5*s.* currency a month, and which is a very inadequate remuneration for a man's labour. The gold dust which is brought down from the interior is obtained from the alluvial sands and soil, and is washed down from the mountains composed of granite, gneiss, and quartz. At Cape Coast even the sweepings of the streets are impregnated with gold. These are gathered up and subjected to repeated washings, and the average sum that a whole day's labour at this employment will bring a woman will not exceed 2*d.* or 3*d.* a day. Accra is divided into British, Dutch, and Danish Accra; the Dutch fort and settlement are of less importance than the Danish; the fort of the latter, called Christiansburg, is on a large scale. It has about 80 or 90 guns mounted.

"Dixcove.—This district extends for 40 miles along the sea-coast,



and about 30 miles into the interior. The imports and exports are said to be about 20,000*l*, or 30,000*l*. Last year 40 British vessels anchored in the roadstead.

"Elmina is the largest and most important of the Dutch forts and settlements on the Gold Coast, and is situated nine miles to the westward of Cape Coast. The town is considerable, and the trade with Ashantee of some importance.

"Slavery on the Gold Coast prevails to a great extent among the natives. Those slaves, which are chiefly for domestic service, and not for prædial labour, are treated with mildness, and are consequently comparatively happy. The Fantees make no wars now to obtain their slaves; those which they hold are either born in bondage, or are what are called "slaves of the house," and are more leniently treated than others; or are purchased in the neighbouring countries, where the slave-trade is still carried on; or they are taken in "pawn" either for the debts of others or themselves; and, not being able to pay these debts, they lapse into slavery."

The following is an account of one of their horrid practices in a case of human sacrifice, which occurred in the year 1840:—

"My informant and the other masters of English vessels then at anchor in the Bonny, when they went ashore were frequently in the habit of seeing a little negro girl, about 10 years of age, who had been brought down from the upper country, and placed under the charge of one of the natives at Bonny, previously to being sacrificed by the jujumen or priests of that place. The masters of the British vessels frequently saw the child, and were not ignorant of the intended sacrifice of it. This kind of sacrifice, it seems, is made once in each king's reign. The child must be without spot or blemish. If there is the slightest eruption on the skin, or the smallest scratch, the child is held unfit for sacrifice. Consequently, the person placed in charge of the child was extremely careful to preserve it from hurt or injury, and in the present case seemed in the greatest alarm at all times lest any accident should happen to it. The little girl was suffered to go about, to do whatever she liked, and no one dared to punish, or to contradict her. On the appointed day she was placed on a stage of planks placed across a canoe, and taken by some of the Bonny people over the bar of the river. The men in the canoe kept telling her they were going to send her to see her father and mother; and while engaging her attention in this manner, they slipped the stage on which the poor child was sitting into the sea, and, consigning her to the fetish, they left her to go down. The people in the canoe then pulled ashore as fast as possible; and at the very time this atrocity was suffered to be committed, a tremen-

dous tornado set in, and the Dalhousie Castle, a British vessel loading in the river, was totally wrecked on the bar."

The contiguous coast of Liberia, settled by America, is visited by vessels periodically from the mother country, supplying the settlers with "*Yankee notions*," likewise with sugar and coffee. Near Bassa Cove, the river of St. John's empties itself into the sea, and on either side of that river are two towns containing about 500 each of settlers and natives, who are instructed by coloured missionaries, both from America and natives of the coast; they give a good report of the capabilities of the natives to acquire instruction; the above towns are called Bassa, and Edina, the latter founded by the liberality of the ladies in Edinburgh, from whence it takes its name.

On the subject of fugitive slaves in British settlements, and the writer having alluded in his Journal, particularly to Princes' Island on that head, he extracts the following incident from the Parliamentary Appendix.

"We have had some frightful instances of the results of the restoration of slaves of no very distant date, and in one case where the fugitives happened to belong to a Portuguese lady, of Princes' Island, whose hospitality to the officers and others visiting this beautiful island is well known. It is imagined, rather generally in tropical climates, that hospitable hosts and hostesses are equally kind masters and mistresses to their slaves. I have heard it stated that Madame Pereira was particularly indulgent to hers, but I cannot say that my own observations at Princes' Island would lead me to form that opinion. Her slaves are miserably clad, haggard in their appearance, and evidently hard worked. I had hardly been on shore half an hour, before I had an application from one of the slaves to beg the captain of a vessel of war, who was present, to receive him on board—that he wished to fly from his mistress,—wherever the vessel might be going.

"Had the man been found at sea in a canoe, he might have been picked up to save his life; but, where he was, on the property of his mistress, his request of course could not be granted. Madame Pereira, shortly before my visit to Princes' Island, had one of her vessels, equipped for the slave trade, seized by Captain Tucker, of Her Majesty's ship *Wolverine*, and condemned at Sierra Leone. I have noticed these matters to show the kind of person for whom the practice of our courts and the instructions of our Government have been set aside, in the case of certain fugitive slaves taking refuge in Sierra Leone, and subsequently been delivered up to this slaveholder, and, as the recent case has proved, slave trading lady also. Her complaint in the first instance was brought to the notice of Sir Patrick Campbell, the admiral on the station, and on information

being given him that the slaves had taken refuge in Sierra Leone, he immediately sent a vessel of war to obtain the fugitives and convey them back to their owner, Madame Pereira. The vessel sent on this service was under the command of Captain Craigie of the navy, and one negro man and two women were given up to him by the authorities at Sierra Leone. An officer like Captain Craigie, of humanity and benevolent feelings, did not fail to observe the terror these poor creatures showed at the idea of returning to Portuguese slavery, even with the knowledge of the tender mercies of Madame Pereira, and it was evident to him that they would attempt to destroy themselves the first opportunity that presented itself to them. He was obliged to put them in irons to prevent them committing suicide, and one of the women, but for Captain Craigie's prompt interposition, would have succeeded in throwing herself overboard. The only observation she made, when thus prevented from destroying herself, was, 'You can't stop me from doing it when I get to Princes' Island.'

"But, notwithstanding all Captain Craigie's care, the male slave succeeded in hanging himself on board. Captain Huntley, who was on board at the time, accompanied Captain Craigie to the place below deck where the unfortunate man was found, it could not be said suspended, but kneeling on a bench and hanging by the lanyard string attached to his knife, and fastened to a hook in the beam over his head. Captain Huntley stated to me that he had never seen a more pitiable sight, and I can well believe it must have been so.

"The women were taken to their mistress, and what their fate was in her hands is not known, but it may be imagined.

"There is matter for reflection in the fate of these unfortunate fugitives, who had taken refuge in our settlement, and were wrongfully deprived of its protection, if such matters be thought worthy of consideration in these distant places, where men's notions of right and wrong get frequently utterly confounded."

The writer held a conversation on the cultivation of cotton with an intelligent chief at the confluence, on the 18th Sept. 1841. The following were the questions and answers.

How long is the seed in the ground ere its springs up?

Five days.

How long ere it arrives at maturity or ready for plucking?

Ten months.

What is the best time for planting cotton?

The first of the rain.

Where did this cotton grow?

At Gana District, Gundy Town; Simoden chief man.

How far distant is the above place from the confluence ?

About four miles down the right hand of the river.

Is there a great extent of ground cultivated with cotton ?

Every person grows a little ?

Is the plant renewed every ten months ?

Yes ; one or two seeds just put under the surface of the earth.

When asked the value of about one lb. uncleaned ?

He asked for it four hundred cowries.

The above questions were put by the writer the day before he was laid down with the fever at the confluence of the Tchadda with the Niger, which prevented him from obtaining any further information.

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LONDON :  
H. W. MARTIN, PRINTER,  
BARTLETT'S BUILDINGS,  
HOLBORN.

